Air Resources Board

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
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Linda Adams
Agency Secretary

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Governor

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...NTROL DISTRICT

June 10, 2010

Mr. Brad Poiriez
Air Pollution Control Officer
Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
150 South Ninth Street
El Centro, CA 92243-2850

Dear Mr. Poiriez:

Thank you for submitting the improvements to the Imperial County Smoke Management Plan adopted by your District Board on April 27, 2010. The Air Resources Board has previously determined that the District's Plan meets the requirements of our statewide regulation. These recent improvements to the communication and coordination aspects of the program will strengthen implementation of the Plan. I appreciate your efforts to keep the Air Resources Board staff involved in the development of these updates.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Linda Murchison, Chief, Planning and Technical Support Division at (916) 322-5350, or via e-mail at lmurchis@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

for
James Goldstene,
Executive Officer
California Air Resources Board

cc: Linda C. Murchison, Chief
Planning and Technical Support Division

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Website: http://www.arb.ca.gov.

California Environmental Protection Agency

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IMPERIAL COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

SMOKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

PROCEDURES FOR OPERATING THE AIR DISTRICT'S
AGRICULTURAL BURNING PROGRAM

APRIL 27, 2010

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BACKGROUND

Purpose

The intent of the Imperial Country Air Pollution Control District's (ICAPCD) Smoke Management Program (SMP) is to meet the requirements of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations as outlined in §80100 through §80330 (Title 17). In meeting the requirements of Title 17, the ICAPCD's SMP will manage smoke caused by agricultural burning, protect the public health and ensure compliance will all ICAPCD rules, policies and procedures. In addition, enforcement of this SMP will assure that the ICAPCD's goal to achieve and maintain all state and federal ambient air quality standards related to PM-10 and PM-2.5 will continue through the implementation of such smoke management emission reducing measures, as this smoke management program.

Authority

The authority to develop and enforce the ICAPCD's SMP is contained in the Health and Safety Code (H&SC) §40000-§40003. However, in order to accomplish the intent of Division 26 of the H&SC the SMP was prepared according to subchapter 2 of Title 17. Therefore, the definition of agricultural waste, the procedures for permitting agricultural burns, the procedures for tracking, allocating, and authorizing burns, and the neighbor notification, and traffic re-route procedures for agricultural burning can all be found in Rules 101, 701, Policy 34 and Policy 37. The SMP objectives are to employ smoke management techniques on all agricultural burn projects to prevent smoke impacts to communities and all sensitive receptors in Imperial County, as well as Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico.

District Characteristics

Imperial County is located at the southeast corner of California (see appendix 2). It includes twelve small cities and towns, a regional airport, the El Centro Auxiliary Naval Airfield, and two state correctional facilities. Located at the Southeastern end of this agricultural area, directly across the international border, is Mexicali, Mexico. Mexicali is a large urbanized city with a population of over a million people. The Sea of Cortez is about eighty miles farther southeast. Winds from the southeast may carry urban emissions below the inversion layer, and also may mix emissions with the inversion layer.

Agricultural Burning

§80150 of Title 17 specifies the special requirements for the open burning in agricultural operations in the growing of crops or rising of fowl or animals. This section specifically requires the ICAPCD to have rules and regulations that minimize smoke from agricultural burning. The agricultural core of Imperial County, where the field burning takes place (about one fifth of the countryside), is a trapezoid area about 30-35 miles from north to south. This intensely cultivated zone lies directly south of the Salton Sea and extends south to the international border with Mexico. The east to west dimension

of this agricultural area is about 25 miles at the north end and about 30 miles along the border. Some fields raise more than one type of crop a year. Burning is used on such fields for pest management (insects, disease, and weed control) and to expedite planting of additional crops. The Coachella Canal is the eastern boundary of the almost continuous system of fields, canals, and roadways.

Typically, the types of crops that are burned throughout the year include: Wheat and Bermuda. Occasionally other crops that are burned on a less frequent basis include: Sudan, Onion shaft, and other miscellaneous crops. Historically, prescribed burning has not taken place within Imperial Country and the District does not foresee the need for prescribed burning in the future; however, the program is capable of addressing prescribed burning if the need ever materializes.

All agricultural waste burners are required to have a permit with the ICAPCD. The majority of the burn permit holders have been farming and burning agricultural waste in the Imperial County for many years and are well aware of all responsibilities and requirements that are associated with the burning of agricultural wastes. In spite of this, the ICAPCD will continue to provide written and verbal direction, information and instruction regarding rules, policies and procedures for agricultural burning. The type and amount of acres burned varies from year to year and are reflective of a wide variety of factors. The ICAPCD submits an annual report to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in January of each calendar year. The report includes the amount of acres and the type of crop that were burned during the previous calendar year. Traditionally, the majority of the burning takes place between the months of May - July and November – January.

HOW THE ICAPCD SMP WORKS

A. Definition of Agricultural Burning

ICAPCD Rule 101, Agricultural Burning is defined as follows:

Agricultural Burning - Open Outdoor Fires used in agricultural operations in the growing of crops or raising of fowls or animals, or Open Outdoor Fires used in forest management, range improvement, or the improvement of land for wildlife and game habitat, or disease or pest prevention.

Agricultural Burning - also means Open Outdoor Fires used in the operation or maintenance of a system for the delivery of water for the purposes specified above.

Agricultural Burning - also means Open Outdoor Fires used in wildland vegetation management burning. Wildland vegetation management burning is the use of prescribed burning conducted by a public agency, or through a cooperative agreement or contract involving a public agency, to burn land predominantly covered with chaparral, trees, grass, or standing brush. Prescribed burning is the planned application of fire to vegetation to achieve any specific objective on lands selected in

advance of that application. The planned application of fire may also include natural or accidental ignition.

B. Air District Smoke Management and Forecasting Resources

B.1 Personnel

The SMP will be implemented using internally designated ICAPCD staff and CARB meteorological staff. Currently, there are four internal staff members who focus on meteorological, air quality and other programming issues with the assistance of CARB meteorological staff. ICAPCD staff have the education, experience and background which enables them to do the appropriate meteorological analysis and air quality for daily smoke management determination. To assist agricultural burners and the general public, the ICAPCD staff is available for questions and updated weather information seven days a week.

B.2 Meteorological Resources

Weather information utilized for the determination of a burn day, non-burn day or permissive burn day is gathered primarily from the National Weather Service (NWS). As mentioned above, the ICAPCD and CARB work together to acquire the data and information necessary for the appropriate daily burn determination. This information is gathered and organized using the CARB meteorology which consists of the California and Nevada – Smoke and Air Committee (CANSAC), the Prescribed Fire Information Reporting System (PFIRS), Satellite and all public and domestic NWS programs. Essentially, the NWS and CARB supply back up graphics and sounding plot via the PFIRS, CANSAC and unit computers for Southern California which are located in Sacramento, California.

Locally, data is updated daily through communications via a personal computer (PC) using the Imperial County T1 local area network (LAN) during the early morning hours for analysis.

B.3 Air Quality Monitoring Resources

In addition to the hourly surface reports from the NWS, there are other agencies which operate monitoring equipment used in determining basin wide meteorological and air quality conditions. The San Diego Airport, the Naval Air Facility (NAF), the Yuma Airport, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the Imperial Airport and the Imperial County Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network all provide local hourly surface data which is accessible at any given hour. Both staff and CARB have accessibility to the latest hourly observations at any given hour via

the PC. Attached is a map of all ICAPCD and CARB monitoring sites located within Imperial County (see Appendix 2).

B.4 Daily Data Compilation and Determination

12Z upper air soundings from the CARB lab are used to predict burn hours. The Thermal low level aircraft sounding is used and compared with the data from NOAA and the Yuma Airport. The sounding and the gathered information from all sources mentioned above are analyzed and a determination is made with the assistance of CARB whether the day is a burn or no burn day. All data is recorded in the Weather and Agricultural Burn Form (see Appendix 1) and archived on a daily basis.

C. Burn Registration, Smoke Management Planning, and Burn Permits

C.1 Burn Permits

Since 1979, the ICAPCD has required that any person or company (applicant) wishing to conduct agricultural burning, and/or prescribed burning, within Imperial County must have a valid burn permit from the ICAPCD (Rule 701 – Agricultural Burning, see Appendix 4). All permit applications are submitted to and are issued by the ICAPCD's Compliance Division.

The provisions of a burn permit provide the necessary information to ICAPCD for the proper management and planning of each individual burn. Each applicant is required to submit an application (see Appendix 3) that clearly describes the locations of each intended field burn. The locations may be identified by legal assessor number or, for agricultural fields by the Canal Name and Gate Number which serves water to the field. Additional information required, from the applicant, is the nearest crossroads and the amount or number of acres to be burned. This information is provided under certification; the signature represents knowledge and understanding by the applicant that as a responsible agent they will comply with all burning regulations including those procedures found in Policies 34 and 37(see Appendix 5 & 10). All permits and associated paperwork are archived for reference.

C.2 Although, all Burn Day Decisions, Allocating Acreage, and Tracking of all Agricultural Burning follow the guidelines set forth in Policy 34 (see Appendix 5), a brief description of the procedures is provided here for reference. Changes in policies due to changes in circumstance or technology will be reflected in the next revision to the Smoke Management Plan if appropriate.

For purposes of managing smoke, the ICAPCD has divided the Imperial County into four separate quadrants. Traditionally, the quadrants are

bisected north to south by Highway 78 and east to west by Highway 111. Because the intent of the burn day approval process is to coordinate agricultural burning based on meteorological conditions and acceptable air quality. Essentially, the agricultural burn day process is twofold: 1) a determination based on meteorological and air quality conditions and 2) Daily burn approval and notification.

- Permissive Burn Day: Burning is not prohibited by the CARB and burning is authorized by the ICAPCD consistent with state guidelines and ICAPCD rules, regulations and policies.
- No-Burn Day: Burning is prohibited by the CARB or the ICAPCD. No burning is allowed to occur except as exempted in Rule 701.
- Marginal Burn Day: Limited burning in specific areas is allowed.

The scheduling of times and acreage is a concerted effort which involves daily meteorological analysis and air quality review. The ICAPCD staff does and will continue to utilize the joint effort between ICAPCD and CARB to make the determination of a permissive, marginal or no burn day. Specifically, all determinations made by the ICAPCD staff are based on all meteorological tools as explained in section B, designated plot pattern of burns (see subsection C.3), current smoke complaints and current air quality levels.

C.3 The allocation of burning is a tool utilized by ICAPCD staff to help prevent potential impacts of smoke on populated areas. This management tool helps ICAPCD staff to set daily meteorological and source/receptor analysis for each given quadrant. Essentially, this allows the ICAPCD to define daily burning capacity for each quadrant. Therefore, in accordance with Policy 34, every field to be burned is precisely noted on a large map of Imperial County (about 4 feet high and 3 feet wide) that shows all road intersections and canals in the intensely cultivated area. Also shown are communities, rural school locations, state correctional facilities, the regional airport, and the Naval Air Facility (see Appendix 6).

Once the burn/no-burn determination is made and approval is given then ICAPCD staff notify each responsible agent of the allocated times, responsibilities and any other pertinent information required to assure a well managed burn (See Rule 701 and Policy 37).

One of the source/receptor analysis conducted by the ICAPCD staff is the Impact or potential impact of smoke transported across the international border, in either direction. Adjustments to the burn day hours, burn locations, and burn allocations are made according to meteorological, current smoke complaints and current air quality levels.

C.4 For prescribed burns, all requirements of CCR §80160 will be implemented.

D. Consideration of Smoke Sensitive Areas

D.1 All “Special Burns” must have an inspector present prior to and at the time of ignition at the site to give authorization of the burn prior to the lighting of a field. The term “Special Burn” refers to those burns within one and one half (1 ½) miles of a residential area (three or more contiguous, inhabited dwellings), rural schools, or adjacent to heavily traveled roads, and other such facilities as a correctional facility or airport.

D.2 For any “Special Burn” an inspector will be present prior to and at the time of the ignition of the burn in order to make an assessment of meteorological and air quality conditions. Any lighting or ignition of a fire will be conducted after approval by the inspector and under the specified conditions required of “Special Burns” which must comply with the provisions of Rule 701, specifically the provisions of subsections A.14; A.14.a - A.14.h inclusive (See Appendix 4).

D.3 “Special Burn” information along with more qualitative and quantitative meteorological, tracking of burns and current air quality levels assist ICAPCD in seeking out technological and nontechnical improvements in making source/receptor relationships for the allocation and determination of daily burn days. ICAPCD staff tracks “Special Burn” and non-special burn information seven days a week, including results of field inspections near smoke sensitive areas.

D.4 For prescribed burns, measures will be taken to assure that the requirements of CCR §80160 are met. The CARB recommended smoke management plan will be used to meet these requirements.

E. Consideration of Alternatives/Incentives for Not Burning

E.1 The ICAPCD implements an Agricultural Burning Emission Reduction Credit (ERC) Certificate program as an alternative and incentive for agricultural permit holders to not burn.

E.2 Agricultural Burn permit holders whom wish to participate in the program must submit an application (see Appendix 7) which requires them to complete all necessary physical information, burn permit number, landowner, authorized designee, physical information to be reflected on the ERC certificate, signature and date. Supplemental paperwork requires the parcel ID in the form of Canal Name and Gate Number, Crossroads, Lessee/Grower, Biomass Type, Disposition of the biomass, and amount of acres.

E.3 The application acknowledges by signature that, upon application for an ERC, the parcels covered by the ERC application will be placed on a no burn list.

E.4 First, a visual inspection of the parcel requesting an ERC certification is conducted to verify disposition of the biomass. Upon visual verification that the parcel was not burned, the ICAPCD begins the process of granting the ERC certificate which discloses the total value of the certificate by amount of pollutants (in tons) and which is signed by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

E.5 For prescribed burns greater than 100 acres, or having the potential to produce greater than 10 tons of particulate matter, the CARB recommended smoke management plan will be used to meet the alternative analysis requirements.

F. Public Notification

In an effort to keep the public informed of possible effects of smoke, the ICAPCD continues to seek out different avenues by which to disseminate information to the general public. Currently, the ICAPCD is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the public when dialing the main office number. With the advent of technological improvements, the ICAPCD is looking to develop a dedicated web page both in English and Spanish whereby the public may access information regarding Agricultural Burning. Although the ICAPCD has always had an open door policy, experience has shown that creating an interactive dialogue between government, industry and the public affords a greater amount of awareness and protection. Below is the general description of the recently signed "Good Neighbor Policy" which has been developed to encourage open communications between all parties affected by agricultural burning.

F.1 "Good Neighbor Policy" (Policy 37)

ICAPCD has developed a "Good Neighbor Policy" whereby owners and/or operators are to provide the proper notification and traffic re-routing to reduce agricultural burning impacts. With the development of this policy, those residents located in or around a field will be notified two days in advance of a scheduled burn. In addition, traffic re-routing will be provided when smoke obscures a road adjacent to a burn.

Imperial Valley Air Quality Notifications are provided to the general public via the internet at www.imperialvalleyair.org as another avenue by which the ICAPCD insures information is disseminated to the general public concerning any changes in air quality in Imperial County. The public has instant access to air quality information for the cities of Brawley, Calexico, El Centro, Niland and Westmorland. The public also has the option to receive "Alerts" throughout the day should air quality change to an

unhealthy level. The website is provided both in English and Spanish and contains suggestions that the general public can utilize to help minimize any impacts resulting from diminished air quality. (See subsection G.1 below for a more detailed explanation or visit the website at www.imperialvalleyair.org)

F.2 For prescribed burns with the potential to impact smoke sensitive areas, burners will be required to notify the public in accordance with CCR §80160 (l).

G. Daily Burn Authorization

The daily allocation of burning is a complex procedure, as is described in sections B and C of this Smoke Management Plan. It includes both a qualitative and quantitative analysis of meteorological conditions, current smoke complaints, source/receptor considerations and current air quality levels. While the ICAPCD works with CARB in developing a determination of a burn, no-burn, or permissive burn day, the Air Pollution Control Officer may declare a no-burn day for the District when visibility is below 5 miles and the current air quality levels are such that warrant the determination of a no burn day. Current air quality levels are provided not only to ICAPCD staff but to the general public via a website, www.imperialvalleyair.org. .

G.1 Air Quality Index (www.imperialvalleyair.org)

The ICAPCD maintains a website designed to provide the most current air quality information to ICAPCD staff and the general public. The program uses an Environmental Protection Agency indicator known as the Air Quality Index, or AQI. The AQI is used to report air quality and to help individuals understand what it means to one's health. It is used to report the five most common air pollutants that are regulated under the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone (O_3), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). The AQI uses a numerical system whereby values below 100 are generally considered to be satisfactory, and values above 100 represent unhealthy air pollution levels. In addition to the numerical system the AQI utilizes a color coding system described below.

AQI Value	Air Quality	
Green 0 to 50	Good	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow 51 to 100	Moderate	Air quality is acceptable; however, for a very small number of people, there may be a moderate health concern.
Orange 101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected when the AQI is in

		this range.
Red 151 to 200	Unhealthy	Everyone may begin to experience health effects. Members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple 201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Pollution levels trigger a health alert. Everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Maroon Above 300	Hazardous	Pollution levels trigger health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected

H. Burner/Air District Coordination

The ICAPCD has established communication lines between agricultural entities and the ICAPCD. Forms have been developed which contain vital information such as contact names, mobile phone numbers, office and fax numbers which allow the conveyance of pertinent information between burners and ICAPCD. Upon the issuance of a valid permit, ICAPCD staff provides the permittee information regarding their responsibility under the ICAPCD and State rules, regulations and policies. Once an approval to burn has been given ICAPCD staff verbally provides instruction to the burner of times, the amount and kind of allowable materials that may be burned, contact information should smoke impacts occur and any other pertinent information deemed necessary.

H.1 ICAPCD staff makes every effort to stagger the times granted for burning within a given quadrant to assure reduced saturation of the atmosphere and lessen the possibility of smoke impact to any residential areas. In addition, ICAPCD conveys a copy of the approved burns to the Imperial County Fire Department on a daily basis, including notice of no-burn days. Please refer to Policy 34 (see Appendix 5).

H.2 ICAPCD has developed a “Good Neighbor Policy”, known as Policy 37, which is designed to keep nearby sensitive receptors informed about potential smoke impacts and to help detour traffic from roadways which can be impacted by smoke causing visibility to diminish. However, in addition, Policy 37 not only reminds burners that safety is priority whenever burning is occurring, both before and after the burn, but first contact for any emergency should be to the appropriate emergency service (refer to Policy 37 Appendix 10).

H.3 In accordance to CCR §80145 (i), the ICAPCD will notify neighboring air districts, regions, or states if a burn may have the potential to produce smoke impacts in those areas. Notification will occur via phone conversation.

I. Air District Complaint Handling Procedures

According to Title 17 a Smoke Management Plan should focus on minimizing any significant impacts that agricultural or prescribed burning may have on air quality or the public health. In order to accomplish minimizing a significant impact, the ICAPCD collects and analysis information from several categories in order to make appropriate policy and procedural determinations. Many of the categories have already been mentioned above, such as but not limited to, meteorology, permittee contact information, area allocations, time allocations, burn logs and air quality levels.

Another source of information pertinent to the development of appropriate policy and procedure is the complaint handling logs. Review and assessment of all received, responded and outcomes of complaints is one of the determining factors in establishing procedure and policy which helps to minimize smoke impacts. Therefore, the ICAPCD conducts a regional uniform response to complaints following the policy and procedures listed below.

The ICAPCD maintains an agricultural burn complaint log (see Appendix 8) separate from the general ICAPCD complaint log. ICAPCD staff shall respond to all complaints received about smoke impacts caused from agricultural burning as soon as feasibly possible after the complaint is logged at the ICAPCD but not later than 24 hours. If ICAPCD staff determines that the complaint is valid and there is verification of smoke impact on a sensitive area, ICAPCD staff will contact the responsible agent (burner) and require all reasonable steps to be taken to minimize further impact such as but not limited to traffic re-routing (See Policy 37, Appendix 10). Once all reasonable steps have been taken and the impact has been minimized the ICAPCD staff shall contact the complainant to inform him/her of the results of the complaint investigation. .

J. Inspection and Enforcement Procedures

J.1 ICAPCD staff shall conduct on-site inspections of every burn that is considered a “Special Burn” in accordance with Rule 701 (see Appendix 4).

J.2 ICAPCD staff shall conduct an on-site inspection of every active burn that has generated a complaint (See section I above).

J.3 Subject to the constraints of staff time and availability, ICAPCD staff shall conduct on-site inspections of a representative number of agricultural burns each year that are conducted in an area or by a source that historically generates many complaints.

J.4 Subject to the constraints of staff time and availability, conduct inspections of active agricultural burns to document that meteorological conditions are within acceptable parameters; that the amount of acreage given in the

burn request and subsequent authorization is what is actually being burned; and that the burn is not impacting any sensitive receptors.

J.5 If unacceptable smoke impacts occur to a smoke sensitive area from an authorized burn, and such impacts are verified by ICAPCD staff, then the responsible agent (burner) will be promptly notified and required to take such contingency measures as are possible (See Policy 37, Appendix 10).

J.6 Notices of Violation issued for violations of ICAPCD Rule 701 - Agricultural Burning are handled the same as violations for any other ICAPCD rule or regulation. The ICAPCD Mutual Settlement Policy #27 (MSP) is used to determine penalties and guide enforcement actions.

K. Annual Burn Report to CARB

Title 17 §80130 requires a report of agricultural burning to be submitted to the CARB at the end of each calendar year.

K.1 In compliance with Title 17 §80130 the ICAPCD staff maintains a daily burn log database (see Appendix 9). The database contains the estimated tonnage or acreage of each authorized burn, under normal and special circumstances. All permitted agricultural field burning is recorded and transmitted to the CARB as required and specified under Title 17 CCR §80130 (a) and (b).

APPENDIX 1

WEATHER AND AGRICULTURAL BURN INFORMATION FORM

Imperial County Air Pllution Control District

Daily Weather and Ag. Burning Information

Date **Friday, January 01, 2010**

Yesterday's Weather Observations at Imperial Airport (ASOS) FAA/NWS

Local Time	Temp	Winds	Visibility
	◦F	Miles Per Hour	Miles
7 am			
8 am			
9 am			
10 am			
11 am			
Noon			
1 pm			
2 pm			
3 pm			
4 pm			
5 pm			
6 pm			
7 pm			
Max. Temperature yesterday was			**degrees.**

Today's Mt. Signal Visibility at 7:30 AM _____ NKX 12Z 500 MB Height _____

1Y7 12Z 500 MB Height _____

Forecasts

High Today _____

	Local Forecast (Issued 8 AM Local)	Computer Forecast (RUC 40KM 12Z)
Est. Time Mixing Height reaches 3000 feet	_____	_____
Forecast of Maximum Mixing Height	_____ feet	_____ feet
Forecast for Morning surface winds	_____ mph	_____ mph
Forecast for afternoon surface winds	_____ mph	_____ mph
Forecast for evening surface winds	_____ mph	
Forecast 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. transport winds	_____ mph	

Comments/Complaints: _____

Burn Hours _____ ARB No Burn Day _____ District called No Burn Day _____

Total acutally burned today _____ acres Crops burned _____

_____ Int. _____

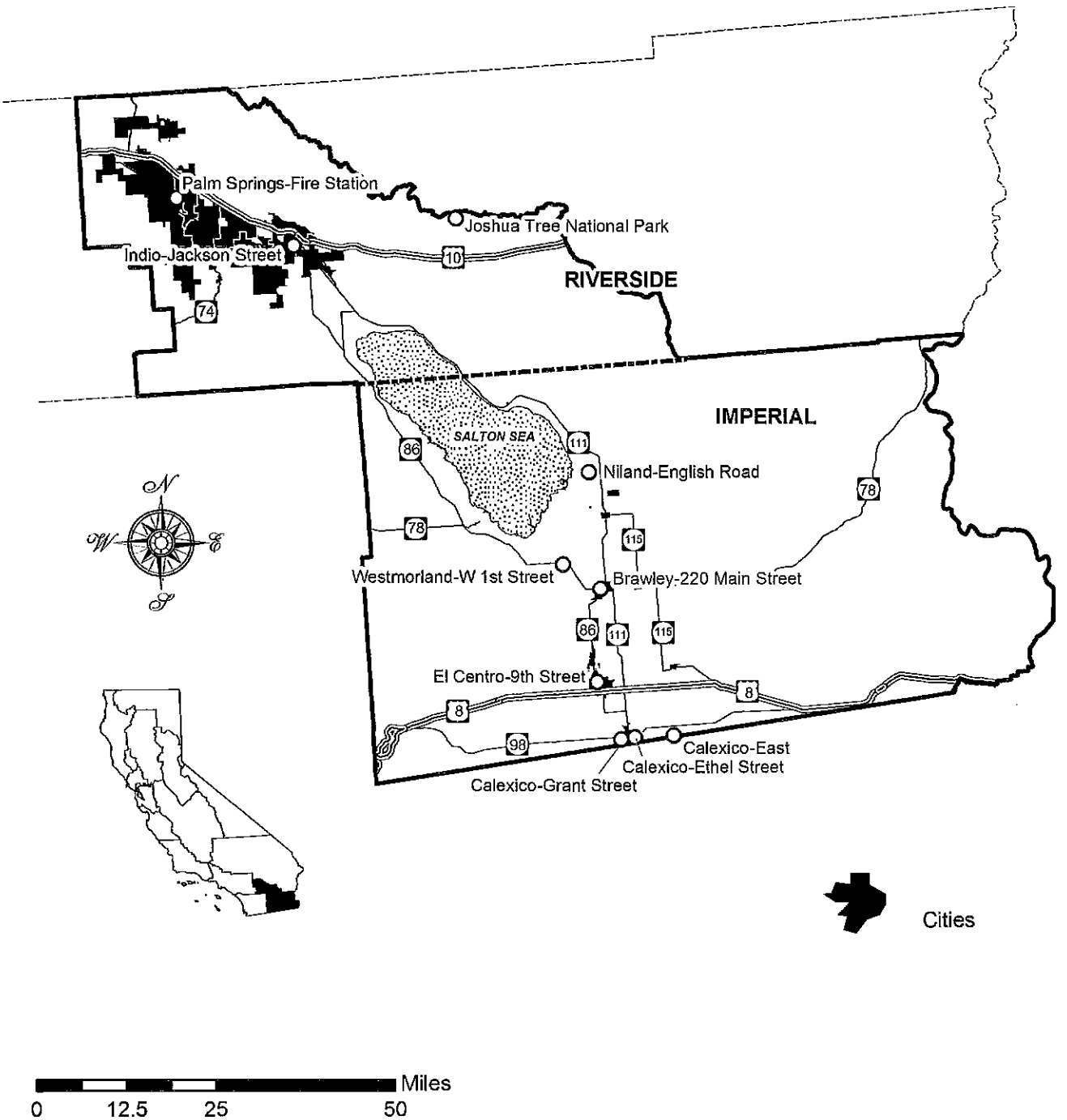
IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT 2009

Updated August 12, 2009

APPENDIX 2

IMPERIAL COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT
CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD MONITORING SITES WITHIN IMPERIAL COUNTY

Figure 11. Salton Sea Air Basin Monitoring Stations (2006-2008)



Miles
0 12.5 25 50

APPENDIX 3

GENERIC AGRICULTURAL BURN PERMIT APPLICATION AND PERMIT

APPLICATION FOR BURNING PERMIT

Air Pollution Control District
150 South Ninth Street El Centro, CA 92243-2850
Office: (760) 482-4606

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Land to be burned: Legal, Assessor Number _____

Canal & Gate _____ Crossroads _____ Acres/Tons _____

☐ See attachment for sketch or further information.

I hereby certify that: I am the owner or manager of the land on which burning will be done pursuant to this permit; I have a copy of the burning regulations, understand and will comply with them. I will NOTIFY THE APCD PRIOR TO BURNING in accordance with the regulations. I certify that the burning is necessary because _____

_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Title _____

This permit is valid only on those days which are not prohibited by the California State Air Resources Board or by the Air Pollution Control Officer pursuant to Section 41855 of the California State Health and Safety Code.

IMPERIAL **COUNTY**

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

BURNING PERMIT

VALID ONLY FOR THE LAND IDENTIFIED ABOVE

THIS PERMIT IS ISSUED TO:

PERMIT NUMBER:
FEES:
TYPE:
RESP. AGENT:
TELEPHONE:
EXPIRES:

_____
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL OFFICER

APPENDIX 4

RULE 701 – AGRICULTURAL BURNING

RULE 701 AGRICULTURAL BURNING

(Adopted prior to 10/15/79; revised 6/1/77, 9/14/99; 08/13/2002)

A. Prohibitions

A.1 No person knowingly shall set or permit Agricultural Burning unless he has a valid permit from the Air Pollution Control Officer. The Air Pollution Control Officer shall issue Agricultural Burning permits subject to the rules and regulations of the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, and the California Health and Safety Code and implementing regulations.

A.2 Each applicant for a permit shall provide information as required by the Air Pollution Control Officer.

A.3 Prior to the burn, notice of intent shall be given by the permittee to the Air Pollution Control Officer.

A.4 No permit shall be valid for any day during a period in Which Agricultural Burning is prohibited by the California Air Resources Board or the Air Pollution Control District.

A.5 No permit shall be valid for any day in which burning is prohibited by the designated fire control agency having jurisdiction over the site of the burn for the purposes of fire control or prevention.

A.6 All agricultural wastes to be burned must be free of tires, rubbish, tar paper, construction debris, and all other material that is not produced in an agricultural operation.

A.7 All agricultural wastes to be burned shall be arranged in such manner as to promote drying and insure combustion with a minimum of smoke production. All agricultural wastes to be burned shall be free of excessive dirt, soil, and visible surface moisture.

A.8 All agricultural wastes to be burned shall be ignited only by an approved ignition device as defined in Rule 101.

A.9 The following types of agricultural waste materials to be burned must be dried for the following minimum time periods or equivalent:

A.9.a Green field stubble: 4 days following harvest
A.9.b Dry cereals: 0 days
A.9.c Prunings and small branches: 2 weeks
A.9.d Large branches and trees: 6 weeks

A.10 Materials to be burned shall be ignited between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., and all burning shall be terminated by sunset of each day.

A.11 No burning of agricultural waste materials shall be permitted which will create a nuisance as defined in Section 41700 of the California State Health and Safety Code.

A.12 The Air Pollution Control Officer may restrict Agricultural Burning to selected permittees on designated Burn Days if the total tonnage to be ignited would total more than 5% of the total annual tonnage burned in Imperial County if visibility is less than 10 miles for two observations one (1) hour apart, when the relative humidity is less than 70%.

A.13 The Air Pollution Control Officer may declare a No-Burn Day for the District when the visibility is below 5 miles. (Amended 6-1-77)

A.14 In addition to the provisions of this rule, burning within one and one half miles of a residential area (three or more contiguous, inhabited dwellings), rural school, or adjacent to heavily traveled roads, is subject to the following conditions:

A.14.a An Air Pollution Control District inspector must be present prior to, and at the time of ignition, and must give approval before the burn may be started.

A.14.b The inspector may require backfiring, strip lighting, or use of needed fire breaks.

A.14.c The inspector may withhold approval if meteorological conditions are not appropriate. Such conditions may be strong or gusty winds, smoke drift toward residential or sensitive areas or across traveled roads, low inversion layer, or excessive moisture, and low visibility.

A.14.d A responsible person shall remain at the fire until it is out.

A.14.e A sufficient number of competent persons shall be available to caution or direct traffic in the event smoke may obscure vision on roads adjacent to the burn.

A.14.f Fields must be disced within 48 hours after the burn for wheat and barley, and for other crops as may be required by the inspector.

A.14.g The permittee or responsible agent must make an appointment to meet an inspector. A requested schedule for burning may be denied or delayed if an inspector is not available, or if an excessive

amount of burning is being requested for the same local area and time.

A.14.h Levee, ditch, right-of-way, and spot burns need not have an inspector present to burn, and shall comply with A.14.a and A.14.b above.

A.15 The Air Pollution Control Officer may restrict Agricultural Burning to selected permittees on designated Burn Days if the total tonnage to be ignited would discharge a volume of contaminants into the atmosphere sufficient to cause adverse conditions. (Amended 6-1-77)

B. Exceptions to Prohibitions

B.1 The Air Pollution Control Officer may grant an exception to Section A.4. allowing burning on a No-Burn Day so designated by the Air Resources Board or the Imperial County APCD when there is a threat of imminent and substantial economic loss. The Air Pollution Control Officer may seek the advice of the County Agricultural Commissioner, the County Farm Advisor, or other informed sources. Said exception shall be provided pursuant to the following provisions:

B.1.a the Air Pollution Control Officer may only authorize such burning when downwind populated areas are forecast by the Imperial County APCD to achieve the ambient air quality standards.

B.1.b the Air Pollution Control Officer shall limit the amount of acreage that can be burned on any one no-burn day.

B.1.c the granting of an exemption does not exempt the applicant from any other Imperial County APCD or fire control regulations.

B.1.d The applicant shall submit in writing on the form provided, his reasons for the exception

B.2 The burning of empty sacks or combustible containers which contained pesticides is permitted on No-Burn Days, providing the sacks or containers are within the definition of "Open Burning in Agricultural Operations in the Growing of Crops or Raising of Fowls or Animal" in Rule 101.

APPENDIX 5

POLICY 34 – AGRICULTURAL BURNING PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING ACREAGE, BURN DAY DECISIONS AND TRACKING

150 SOUTH NINTH STREET
EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2850

TELEPHONE: (760) 482-4606
FAX: (760) 353-9904

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

POLICY: AGRICULTURAL BURNING PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING ACREAGE, BURN DAY DECISIONS, AND TRACKING

DATE: April 7, 2010 POLICY NUMBER: 34

GENERAL

Agricultural burning refers to the intentional use of fire for vegetation management, and also that which is defined in Rule 101. This policy establishes step procedures to be followed for the proper tracking and allocation of agricultural field acreage to be burned on any individual day.

STEPS

1. Designated Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) staff will meet by 8:15 am of each working day to review current, local and surrounding area meteorological data in order to determine if it will be a burn or no burn day and what the appropriate burn hours will be.

2. Designated ICAPCD staff will relay the gathered meteorological data for that day to the Division Manager, who will then recommend a burn/no burn day to the APCO. The APCO decision will be relayed to the appropriate ICAPCD staff.

3. Staff shall receive and record the following information on the burn log sheet (see attachment 1) form incoming burn requests: Name of Permitee, Permit Number, Phone Number, Acres, Crop Residue Type, Canal/Gate, Crossroads, and the nearest City. The ICAPCD shall not allow more than 2,000 acres to be burned in any single day, unless authorized by the APCO or his designee. Daily log sheet information will then be entered into the computer data base for tracking and billing purposes. Billing invoices will be sent on a monthly basis.

4. On a daily basis, ICAPCD staff shall plot each individual burn location on the ICAPCD map. The allowable acreage to be burned will be divided amongst the four quadrants of the valley. The quadrants will be bisected north to south by Hwy 78 and east to west by Hwy 111. Acreage to be burned will be divided equally between the four quadrants. However, acreage may be increased in any quadrant and decreased in another if meteorological conditions warrant.

5. ICAPCD Staff will schedule burn times for each field. Staff will contact the responsible agent for each requested burn and inform them of the scheduled burn time. ICAPCD Staff will stagger the times of burns located in the same quadrant in order to reduce saturation of the atmosphere in that area.

6. The ICAPCD shall provide attention to any field that is considered a "Special Burn" as defined in Rule 701.

7. ICAPCD Staff shall convey a copy of the controlled burn log with the approximate ignition time to the Imperial County Fire Department (ICFD). After the above initial notification, the ICFD shall be contacted by phone whenever the ICAPCD adds any additional fields to be burned that day.

8. ICAPCD Staff shall maintain an agricultural burn complaint log (see Appendix 8) Complaint response shall follow guidelines distinguished in Policy 17 – Complaint Investigation and Response.

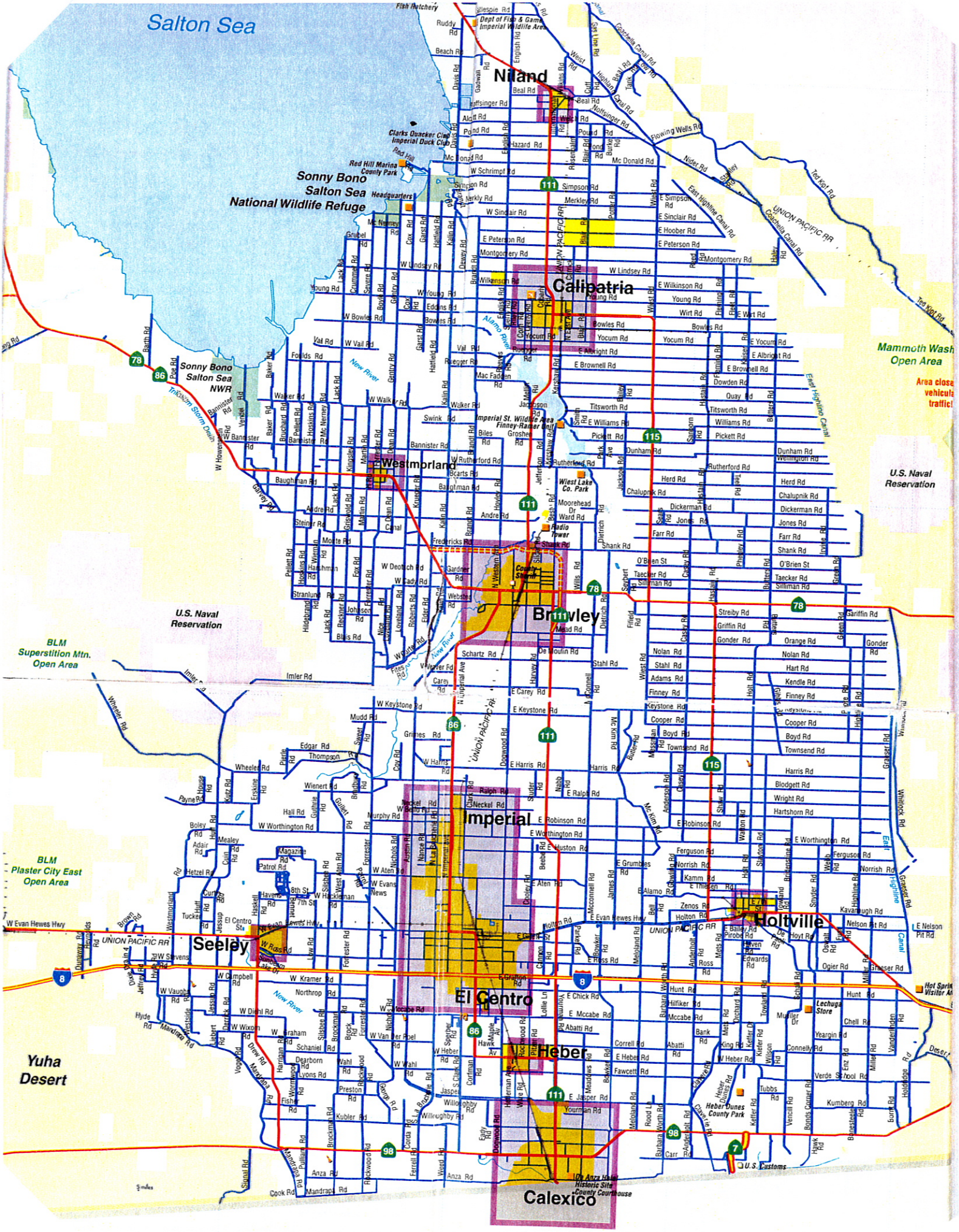
Weekend/Holiday Agricultural Field Burn Procedure

1. ICAPCD Staff shall meet on Friday afternoon, or the afternoon prior to a holiday, to receive a weekend/holiday weather forecast. By 8:15 a.m. each weekend and /or holiday morning, ICAPCD staff shall make a decision on the burn hours for that day based on the forecast and current visibility throughout the Valley. If weather appears to be marginal based on current conditions, ICAPCD staff shall obtain current, updated information.

Brad Poiriez
Air Pollution Control Officer

APPENDIX 6

AGRICULTURAL BURN PLOT MAP


Salton Sea
Niland
Calipatria
Sonny Bono
Salton Sea
National Wildlife Refuge
Sonny Bono
Salton Sea
NWR
Westmorland
Brawley
Imperial
Holtville
Seeley
El Centro
Heber
Calexico
Yuha
Desert
U.S. Naval
Reservation
BLM
Superstition Mtn.
Open Area
BLM
Plaster City East
Open Area
Mammoth Wash
Open Area
UNION PACIFIC RR
New River
Alamo River
Trifolium Storm Drain
East Highline Canal
Coachella Canal
Imperial St. Wildlife Area
Finney-Ranner Unit
Clarks Quacker Club
Imperial Duck Club
Red Hill Marina
County Park
Dept of Fish & Game
Imperial Wildlife Area
Fish Hatchery
Wiest Lake
Co. Park
Radio
Tower
County
Shrine
Heber Dunes
County Park
Hot Spring
Visitor Ar
Lechuga
Store
U.S. Customs
Dr. Anza Kohl
Historic Site
County Courthouse
Area closa
vehicula
traffic!

APPENDIX 7

APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL BURNING EMISSION REDUCTION CREDIT CERTIFICATE

150 South Ninth Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Telephone: (760) 482-4606
Fax: (760) 353-9904

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL BURNING EMISSION REDUCTION CREDIT CERTIFICATE

This application fee covers ***210*** acres. Attach a map of each field covered by this application. Please print or type the information.

Applicant

Burn Permit # _____

_____
(Print Name)

_____
(Address)

_____
(Phone Number)

Landowner

_____
(Print Name)

_____
(Address)

_____
(Phone Number)

Authorized Designee

_____
(Print Name)

_____
(Address)

_____
(Phone Number)

ERCs are requested to be issued in the following name(s)

_____
(Print Name)

_____
(Address)

_____
(Phone Number)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ **Date** _____

The applicant acknowledges by signature that, fields covered by this ERC application will be placed on a no burn list.

APPLICATION FEE $85.00

RECEIVED BY:	_____	***FEE PAID***	_____
DATE	_____	***RECEIPT #***	_____

Clear Form **Print Form**

150 South Ninth Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Telephone: (760) 482-4606
Fax: (760) 353-9904

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION

Parcel ID _____
Acres _____

Gate & Canal _____
Land Owner _____
Crossroads _____
Lessee/Grower _____
Crop Type _____
Disposition of Crop _____

Parcel ID _____
Acres _____

Gate & Canal _____
Land Owner _____
Crossroads _____
Lessee/Grower _____
Crop Type _____
Disposition of Crop _____

Parcel ID _____
Acres _____

Gate & Canal _____
Land Owner _____
Crossroads _____
Lessee/Grower _____
Crop Type _____
Disposition of Crop _____

APPENDIX 8

AGRICULTURAL BURN LOG COMPLAINT

DATE	TIME	COMPLAINT #	COMPLAINT TYPE	LOCATION

APPENDIX 9

DAILY AGRICULTURAL BURN INFORMATION LOG

AGRICULTURAL FIELD BURNING

DATE	NAME	S	PERMIT	PHONE #	C	NAME	PP	TIME	B/NB	ACRES	CROP	CANAL & GATE	CROSS ROADS	CITY
1/2/10	NAME OF COMPANY CONTACT NAME		Number							35	BERMUDA	ELDER 10E SCHOOL	NICHOLS RD VANDERPOOLE RD	EL CENTRO

Identifies if this is a special burn

If the burn is cancelled it is removed from the burning list.

Who authorized the cancellation

Postponed - to burn at a later date

Time of scheduled burn

APPENDIX 10

POLICY 37 – GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

150 SOUTH NINTH STREET
EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2850

TELEPHONE: (760) 482-4606
FAX: (760) 353-9904

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

POLICY: GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY – NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION AND TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING PROCEDURES FOR AGRICUTURAL BURNING

DATE: April 7, 2010 POLICY NUMBER: 37

GENERAL

Agricultural burning refers to the intentional use of fire for vegetation management, and also that which is defined in Rule 101. This policy establishes step procedures to be followed for the proper notification and traffic re-routing to reduce agricultural burning impact to our residents.

A. NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION

In addition to the provisions in Rule 701, Agricultural Burning and Policy 34, Agricultural Burning Procedures, burning of any agricultural field(s) which contains one or more inhabited dwelling(s) is subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to any proposed scheduling of an agricultural burn, the owner or operator of an agricultural field shall identify any inhabited residences located within a ½ mile of the agricultural field.

2. The owner or operator adjacent to a proposed agricultural field burn, must give a 2 (two) day written notice to all potentially impacted residences within a ½ mile of the agricultural field. The written notice shall stipulate that the field has received permission to burn by the APCD and has been scheduled to burn. In addition, the notice shall indicate precautionary measures intended to reduce the impact of smoke and shall advise residents with respiratory problems and children to take precautionary measures during the burning of the field. A sample notice form (Appendix 10) is available at the ICAPCD office and via the web at www.imperialcounty.net

3. At least one hour prior to the igniting of the field, the owner or operator of an agricultural field which has received permission to burn by the ICAPCD shall notify any residences located adjacent to the boundary line of the agricultural field the actual time of burn. Resident notification shall be verbal or written if the resident is not located at the time of notification.

B. TRAFFIC RE-ROUTING

In addition to the provisions in Rule 701, Agricultural Burning, burning of any agricultural field located contiguous or adjacent to a freeway or any public traveled roads is subject to the following conditions:

1. The owner or operator of an agricultural field that has received permission to burn by the ICAPCD shall maintain a sufficient number of competent persons available to caution or direct traffic in the event that smoke obscures the road(s) adjacent to the burn.

2. Persons responsible for cautioning or directing traffic shall use precautionary flags to alert drivers of the smoke impacted road and shall stay at the site until the agricultural burn has ceased.

3. Persons responsible for cautioning or directing traffic shall provide drivers with clear directions for alternative routes at the nearest intersection prior to the smoke impacted roadway.

C. REMINDERS

The ICAPCD would like to remind all burners and responsible agents of agricultural burning that the United States Department of Occupational Safety & Health Administration has specific regulations for assuring the proper safety of workers in agriculture. For more information please visit http://www.osha.gov/

Should any emergency arise requiring the assistance of Fire, Police or medical emergency services please do not call the ICAPCD but dial 911.

Under a voluntary basis, the Farm Bureau will be providing educational training sessions to all responsible agents and burners of agricultural burning. You can acquire more information by visiting http://www.icfb.net/ or by calling (760) 352-3831.

Brad Poiriez
Air Pollution Control Officer

SAMPLE FORM

Good Neighbor Policy Notice

Today's Date _____

Contact Name _____ **Telephone** _____

Depending on weather conditions a scheduled burn may not occur

BURN LOCATION

Street _____ **City** _____

Canal & Gate _____

Crossroads _____ **and** _____

Crop _____ **Acres/Tons** _____

Date of Scheduled Burn _____ **Time** _____

How to Protect Your Family from the Health Effects of Smoke

-Use common sense. If it looks smoky outside, it's probably not a good time to mow the lawn or go for a run. And it's probably not a good time for your children to play outdoors.

-If you are advised to stay indoors, take steps to keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep your windows and doors closed.

-Run your air conditioner. Keep the fresh air intake closed and the filter clean to prevent bringing additional smoke inside. Note: If you don't have an air conditioner, staying inside with the windows closed may be dangerous in extremely hot weather. In these cases, seek alternative shelter.

-Pay attention to local air quality reports and stay alert to any news coverage or health warnings related to smoke.

-If you have heart or lung disease, if you are an older adult, or if you have children, talk with your doctor about whether and when you should leave the area. When smoke is heavy for a prolonged period of time, fine particles can build up indoors even though you may not be able to see them.