



MBUAPCD

Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District
Serving Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties

24580 Silver Cloud Court
Monterey, CA 93940

PHONE: (831) 647-9411 • FAX: (831) 647-8501

July 7, 2014

To: Burn Permit Holders

Re: Proposed Cost-Recovery Fees for Burn Permits

The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (Air District) is currently in the process of developing a fee rule to recover costs for Air District issued open burning permits in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. Open burning includes backyard, agricultural and prescribed (e.g. range improvement) burning, all of which have a potential to cause significant public nuisance and health impacts.

The Air District is obligated by State law and local regulations to implement a smoke management program to limit smoke impacts on the public from open burning. Historically, fees have not been charged for the services the Air District provides to implement the smoke management program. However, all of the cost of these services comes from other sources unrelated to open burning activities. The Air District has incorporated many improvements to streamline the smoke management program to effectively reduce costs, but demands on the program continue to increase.

During the rule development process the Air District will be providing the community with many opportunities to comment. There are three public comment meetings scheduled in July and three Board meetings where the proposed cost recovery fees will be discussed. The proposed changes to the Air District's fee rule is scheduled for final adoption hearing at the Air District's regular Board meeting on October 15, 2014. Written comments are also encouraged.

The public meetings are scheduled at the following locations and dates:

- Tuesday July 15, 2014, Watsonville Library, 275 Main St., 2nd Floor Room, Watsonville; 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday July 16, 2014, Air District Office, 24580 Silver Cloud Ct., Monterey; 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday July 22, 2014, San Benito County Admin Bldg.; 481 4th St, 1st Floor, Hollister; 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Written comments can be submitted to David Craft at dcraft@mbuapcd.org or by mail:

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Monterey, CA 93940

Best regards,

Richard A. Stedman
Air Pollution Control Officer

Attachment: Proposed Cost-Recovery Fee Schedule and Frequently Asked Questions

Proposed Cost-Recovery Fees

Fee Category	Proposed Cost-Recovery Fee for New Permits	Proposed Cost-Recovery Fee for Renewed Permits
Backyard Burn	\$40	\$30
Agricultural Waste Burn (burn piles)	\$20	\$20
Smoke Management Permits:		
Stack Burns	\$100	\$75
Prescribed < 100 acres	\$200	\$150
Prescribed 100-250 acres	\$985	\$740
Prescribed 250-1,000 acres	\$1,580	\$1,180
Prescribed > 1,000 acres	\$2,360	\$1,770

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to pay the Air District fee if I get a permit from my local fire department?

For backyard burning and agricultural waste burning only one permit is needed, either from the Air District or from the local fire agency. If the local fire agency issues burn permits, then no permit or fee is required from the Air District. However, if the local fire agency does not issue burn permits an Air District backyard burn or agricultural waste burn permit and fee are required. For development, range improvement, forest management, and wildland vegetation management burning, Air District smoke management permits and fees are required regardless of whether a permit is issued by the local fire agency.

What is the difference between an Air District agricultural waste burn permit and a smoke management permit?

An agricultural waste burn permit is for stacked agricultural waste from row crops, orchards or vineyards, whereas a smoke management permit is for broadcast burning of agricultural waste or for development, range improvement, forest management, and wildland vegetation management burning.

For smoke management permits, how do I estimate the number of acres?

Acreage estimates are for the total projected amount to be burned in a year. The amount of acres to be burned in the project must be clearly identified on a map included in the smoke management permit application. The fee amount will be for the project acreage at the time of application. Air District staff can assist in determining project acreage during the application process.

How will I pay the permit fee?

The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District now accepts credit and debit card payments through GovPayNet which will be available to accept payments.

What is the effective date for the permit fees?

The fee rule will be presented for adoption to the Air District Board at the October 15, 2014 Board meeting. If adopted, fees would begin on December 1, 2014.