



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

SLO Co APCD and CAL FIRE Joint Residential Burn Permit Program



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BACKGROUND

Legislation passed in 2018 intended to improve forest resiliency and reduce wildfire impacts

Senate Bill (SB) 901

- ▶ **Included \$1 Billion for healthy forests and fire prevention (\$200 Million/yr over 5 years)**
 - ▶ \$165 million went to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects to improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from uncontrolled wildfires.
 - ▶ \$35 million went to CAL FIRE to complete prescribed fire and other fuel reduction projects through proven forestry practices consistent with the recommendation of the State's Forest Carbon Plan

BACKGROUND

- ▶ **In the 2023-2024 burn season CAL FIRE implemented a new requirement for all burners within their State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) or other areas of CAL FIRE Authority to have a permit**
 - ▶ This is part of the state-wide effort to address wildfire risk and understand how much fuel is being reduced through burning
 - ▶ Previously only the APCD had been issuing Residential Burn Permits within SLO County- not the same in all areas of the state
 - ▶ Huge effort on the part of CAL FIRE in all SRA areas, which all have had different policies (could vary from station to station)

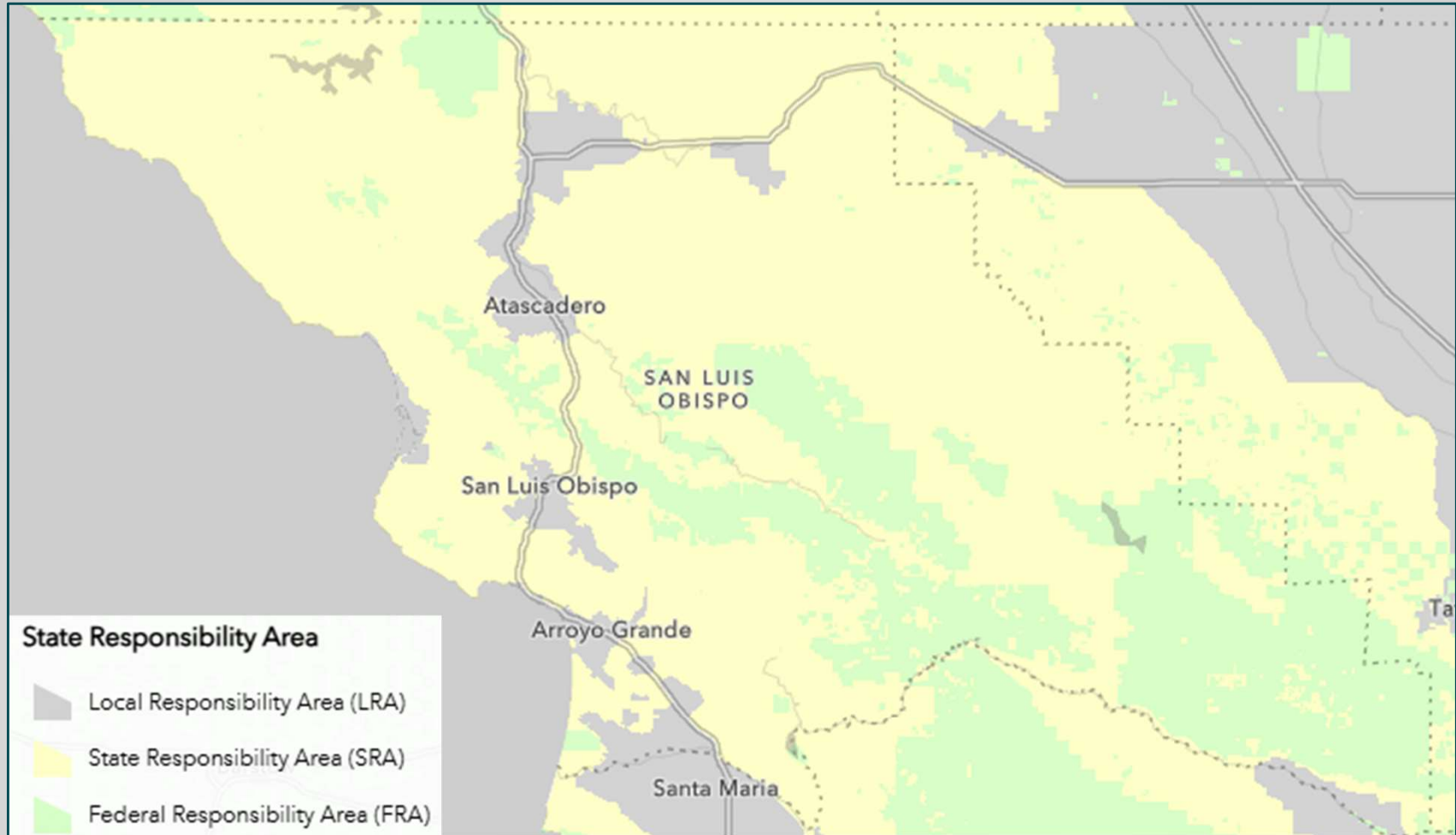


BACKGROUND

- ▶ **Implementation had many challenges**
 - ▶ **Every region is different- relied on local CAL FIRE to administer and answer questions**
 - ▶ **Burning is not allowed in some areas, so how can burners be prevented from obtaining permits in prohibited areas?**
 - ▶ **Confusion on part of burners- now they are required to have two permits for same location in SLO County**
 - ▶ **Enforcement is difficult- How do you address folks who get free on-line CAL FIRE permit, but fail to obtain the required APCD Burn Permits?**
 - ▶ **Terminology/Definitions are different- Some "Ag" burners under APCD definitions are considered residential (LE- 62A permit) burners by CAL FIRE**



CAL FIRE SRA IN SLO COUNTY



HOW DO WE MAKE IT BETTER?

2023-2024 was a challenging burn season for SLO Co APCD

- The District fielded a large volume of questions from burners since most were already familiar with APCD burn program
- CAL FIRE did not have extensive outreach to burners
- CAL FIRE Permits were only available online - no provision for paper permits
- Burners in areas not eligible for burning were able to get permits in some cases
- Some burners did not want to get APCD permit and only obtained free CAL FIRE Permit

HOW DO WE MAKE IT BETTER?

Utilized resources and connections through the CAPCOA Prescribed Fire Working Group

- ▶ Worked with CAPCOA to provide GIS data of areas where burning is prohibited in SLO County- CAL FIRE system should have not allowed permit issuance in those areas
- ▶ Made connection to State CAL FIRE stakeholders to understand how we might be able to work together
- ▶ Began a dialogue to understand what might be possible with the resources we have available

HOW IT WORKS

Uses existing APCD Office Information System (OIS) with upgrades

- **APCD Administration Staff and IT worked directly with CAL FIRE Staff Chief in Sacramento and CAL FIRE GIS team to develop solution**
 - Identified needs from both sides
 - Looked at existing systems to see if they could be utilized to minimize cost
 - Developed policy for permits where there was not direct alignment for burn type between APCD and CAL FIRE - AG-1 permits for example
 - Still ironing out details related to calendars - burn season timelines not in alignment between CAL FIRE and APCD

HOW IT WORKS

OIS 10.1 2024.11.01.0852 APCD-SQLPRD.wings.co.slo.ca.us OIS DKD

Permitting **Enforcement** Engineering Accounting Planning MS Office Tools Search Contact **Site**

Burn_Permit2: 20240705 - Tobin James, Rancho Cuervo

Open Burn # 20240705

Open Burn Applicant Details Renewals (0) Search Grid MRU E-Mail

Open Burn
Applicant
Agent
As Account
Site
History
Inspections

Details

Processed by JPL About

Date Received 03/04/2024

Date Issued 03/04/2024

Expiration Date 03/04/2025

Revoked No Renewal

Complete:
Acres Burned

Fees

Fees Collected? Fee \$100.00

Payment Method ePay

Check Number 8592

Receipt Number 3868918686-1

Applicant 15236 Tobin James, Owner
Rancho Cuervo
5033 Vineyard Drive
Paso Robles CA 93446
(c) 805-674-0791

Agent

AS Account

Site

Description/Comment

EMAILED 03/04/2024 JPL
Emailed 12/14/2022 JJR

Application
Permit
E-Mail

Manage:
CAL FIRE Sync

BurnPermit2 form loaded.

- Uses existing OIS format for data entry
- Creates an option to CAL FIRE Sync
- Identifies Ticket Number (permit) in format CAL FIRE needs
- Will create both APCD and CAL FIRE permits for APCD BYB and AG1 burns (CAL FIRE LE-62A)

HOW IT WORKS

Burn Permit Maintenance

List Support Settings

Refresh Import CAL FIRE Data Upload CAL FIRE Data

Match	TicketNumber	Permit Status	Applicant SignatureDate	Permit IssuedDate	Permit StartDate	Permit EndDate	BurnLocation StreetName
Match	24SLOAG20240853	Approved	5/15/2024	5/15/2024	5/15/2024	4/30/2025	1400 Little Morro Creek Road
Match	24SLOAG20240854	Approved	5/21/2024	5/21/2024	5/21/2024	4/30/2025	1054 Mire Way
Match	24SLOAG20240855	Approved	5/24/2024	5/24/2024	5/24/2024	4/30/2025	1355 Tiffany Ranch Rd
Match	24SLOAG20240856	Approved	6/4/2024	6/4/2024	6/4/2024	4/30/2025	135 Old Summit Rd
Match	24SLOAG20240857	Approved	6/10/2024	6/10/2024	6/10/2024	4/30/2025	1140 and 1150 Connie Lane
Match	24SLOAG20240858	Approved	6/17/2024	6/17/2024	6/17/2024	4/30/2025	1500 Hiway 41
Match	24SLOAG20240859	Approved	6/18/2024	6/18/2024	6/18/2024	4/30/2025	1998 Tapidero Ave
Match	24SLOAG20240860	Approved	7/3/2024	7/3/2024	7/3/2024	4/30/2025	6200 Estrella Road
Match	24SLOAG20240861	Approved	9/5/2024	9/5/2024	9/5/2024	4/30/2025	3510 Las Tablas Willow Creek Rd
Match	24SLOAG20240862	Approved	9/17/2024	9/17/2024	9/17/2024	4/30/2025	1455 Willow Road
Match	24SLOAG20240863	Approved	9/18/2024	9/18/2024	9/18/2024	4/30/2025	4310 La Panza Rd
Match	24SLOAG20240864	Approved	10/9/2024	10/9/2024	10/9/2024	4/30/2025	395 Dana Foothill
Match	24SLOAG20240865	Approved	10/17/2024	10/17/2024	10/17/2024	4/30/2025	3780 Sky Ridge Dr
Match	24SLOAG20240866	Approved	10/17/2024	10/17/2024	10/17/2024	4/30/2025	4570 E Pozo Rd
Match	24SLOAG20240867	Approved	10/21/2024	10/21/2024	10/21/2024	4/30/2025	562 Windermere Lane
New	24SLOAG20240868	Approved	10/29/2024	10/29/2024	10/29/2024	4/30/2025	2450 Huasna Rd
New	24SLOAG20240870	Approved	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	4/30/2025	6250 Round Corral Road
New	24SLOAG20240871	Approved	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	4/30/2025	7475 Orcutt Rd, San Luis Obispo - Edna Ranch Vineyard
New	24SLOAG20240872	Approved	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	10/31/2024	4/30/2025	3033 Biddle Ranch Rd & Orcutt

Status

- Creates data table with all permit information
- Communicates with CAL FIRE data base
- Compares data with data entered into OIS
- Identifies new permits and related information
- Updates new permit data to CAL Fire System



HOW IT WORKS

- ▶ **Impacts the majority portion of burn permits issued in SLO County**
 - ▶ Last year issued 1,631 burn permits total
 - ▶ 1053 residential
 - ▶ 541 Ag (Approx. 350 <10 tons)
 - ▶ 37 special permits
 - ▶ Approximately 1,400 of those permits qualify as CAL FIRE LE-62A permits
 - ▶ **Approximately 85% of all burn permits will be streamlined by this process**



QUESTIONS?

