BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

NEWS

www.baaqmd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **CONTACT**: Jack M. Colbourn
Thursday, February 1, 2007   415-749-4900

Open Burning Season Begins for Marsh Management

The open burning season for marsh management runs from February 1 through March 31, 2007 and applies to fires for the purpose of improving marshland for wildlife habitat. All marsh management fires must be deemed necessary by the CA Department of Fish and Game. No fire is allowed on a given piece of land more than once in any 2-year period, and no more than 100 acres of any property may be burned in a single day. Marsh management fires also require an Air District-approved Smoke Management Plan, as well as a daily acreage burning allocation from the Air District. These fires are not allowed before 10:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m., nor can any additional material be added to existing fires after 3:00 p.m. The next marsh management burn period runs September 1 - October 15, 2007.

Open burning has been regulated in the Bay Area since 1957 because of its considerable contribution to air pollution. While backyard burning of leaves, trash, and grass cuttings or landscape pruning has been prohibited in the Bay Area since 1970, certain fires for agricultural purposes, flood control, fire training and the prevention of fire hazards are allowed according to District regulations for specified periods throughout the year.

Air District meteorologists forecast Burn/No Burn days by 3 PM for the following day. The Air District's Open Burning regulation (Regulation 5) can be downloaded at www.baaqmd.gov. Follow the links under "Air Quality Status." This information is also available on the Air District's toll-free number at 1-800-435-7247.

Open burning seasons apply to the entire Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties. For additional information about marsh burning requirements at the Air District, please call Janet Simon, Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4780.

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