



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District offers free chipping for orchard and vineyard materials

Air District chipping program begins today

SAN FRANCISCO - The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is sponsoring free chipping services to dispose of orchard, vineyard and similar types of agricultural materials in lieu of burning, and is encouraging qualifying Bay Area agricultural operations to apply.

Chipping trees and vines from orchard and vineyard fields reduces unhealthy particulate matter emissions that would result if the material were burned. Chipping is a good alternative to eliminate orchard and vineyard debris, crop replacement or attrition losses.

To qualify:

- The agricultural debris to be chipped must otherwise be allowed to be burned in accordance with state law and Air District regulations.
- The material must be generated from a commercial agricultural operation.
- Materials to be chipped are limited to pruning and attrition losses, or crop replacement.
- Materials to be chipped must also be prepared and stacked according to chipping program guidelines.

The program runs through December 31, or until funds are exhausted, whichever occurs first.

To apply:

Visit the Air District website at: www.baaqmd.gov/chipping and complete a Chipping Program Application Form and submit it for approval. For questions, please contact Air District staff person Douglas Tolar at 415-749-5118.

Agricultural burning is used by farmers to remove a variety of materials such as orchard and vineyard prunings, attrition losses, and crop replacement material cleared for the purpose of establishing another crop. Under state law, agricultural burning cannot be prohibited, but it is regulated in order to reduce air quality impacts.

For more information on open burning regulations please visit:

<http://www.baaqmd.gov/Divisions/Compliance-and-Enforcement/Open-Burning.aspx>

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area.

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