

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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CONTACT: Tom Flannigan, 415.749.4900

Hazy skies and elevated pollution levels expected today in Bay Area Smoke from agricultural burns in the Northern Sacramento Valley moving into region

**SAN FRANCISCO** –The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is advising Bay Area residents that smoke from agricultural burns in the Northern Sacramento Valley will cause elevated levels of fine particulate pollution in the region today.

Northerly winds have moved smoke from agricultural burning in the Sacramento Valley into the Bay Area. A temperature inversion is trapping the smoke near the surface causing increased levels of air pollution and hazy skies.

While Bay Area air quality is not expected to exceed federal health standards today, individuals susceptible to elevated air pollution levels such as children, the elderly and individuals with respiratory illnesses should take extra precautions to avoid exposure. Smoke can irritate the eyes and airways, causing coughing, a scratchy throat and irritated sinuses. Elevated particulate matter in the air can trigger asthma attacks for those who suffer from respiratory illness.

There is no agricultural burning allowed in the Bay Area Air District today or tomorrow due to current conditions. Air quality is expected to improve tomorrow as the temperature inversion over the region begins to weaken and the smoke begins to disperse.

More than 2,000 acres have been approved for agricultural burning today in the Northern Sacramento air basin. Smoke from these fires may further impact air quality today in the Bay Area Air District.

The <u>Bay Area Air Quality Management District</u> is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area. Connect with the Air District via <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>YouTube</u>.

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