



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
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Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

May 31, 2012

Mr. Seyed Sadredin
Executive Director/Air Pollution
Control Officer
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution
Control District
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, California 93726

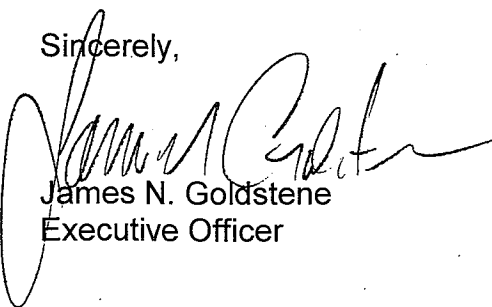
Dear Mr. Sadredin:

In May 2010, the Air Resources Board (ARB) granted a two year concurrence with the District's assessment of the need for limited exemptions to the phase-out of agricultural burning, consistent with the statutory criteria of SB 705. The remaining burning is allowed due to the need for disease control, and situations where the costs or technical issues make alternatives to burning impractical.

ARB has monitored the implementation of the program, including the added prohibition on the burning of orchard removal from large citrus farms. The District has documented that the phase-out of agricultural burning has reduced emissions by about 80 percent since 2002, and that the economic and technical issues supporting the need for limited exemptions remain. Based on this update, ARB concurs that the limited exemptions are appropriate for another three years. Agricultural waste has the potential to be used in ways to further California's air quality, climate, and energy policies. ARB will continue to work with the District, other agencies, and industry to promote greater utilization of agricultural waste in the production of renewable energy and biofuels.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 445-4383 or via email at jgoldste@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


James N. Goldstene
Executive Officer

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency