



## BAAQMD REGULATION 5: OPEN BURNING

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING A MARSH MANAGEMENT FIRE SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN (FORM MM-1) AND PAYMENT OF OPEN BURNING FEES

#### GENERAL INFORMATION & APPLICABILITY

Marsh Management fires are open, outdoor fires set for the purpose of improvement of marshland for wildlife habitat. A "marshland" is defined as a type of wetland periodically or permanently covered to a depth of up to 2 meters (6.6 feet) that supports low or tall emergent vegetation. Some examples are diked wetlands, seasonally managed wetlands, unmanaged tidal wetlands, sloughs and open bays.

All Marsh Management fires, irrespective of size, must be certified by the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (DFW), previously known as the CA Dept. of Fish & Game (DFG); require a Smoke Management Plan (SMP) approved in writing by the Air District; and require fee payment to the Air District **prior to burning**. In addition, a local fire agency burn permit is required prior to burning in the Suisun Marsh. For burns conducted outside of the Suisun Marsh, contact the local fire agency with jurisdiction at the burn site to determine how to comply with any requirements.

Smoke Management Plan (SMP) Submittal - Completed SMPs should be submitted to:

**The CA Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
**2548 Grizzly Island Road**  
**Suisun, CA 94585**

Submit your completed SMP as soon as possible prior to the desired burn season to optimize your opportunities to burn. Remember: Regulation 5 **requires** that the plan be received by the Air District at least 30 calendar days prior to the burn.

**The SMP must include 3 copies of a detailed property map** that identifies the area(s) to be burned (burn site and any interior unit contingency cutoff lines), and all access roads and gates to the property. Also, include an additional map showing the property's location within the marshland.

Marsh Management Fire (Marsh Burning) Fee Payment – required prior to burning

Upon receipt of a completed SMP from the DFW, the Air District will send a fee payment invoice to the landowner. The invoiced fee amount will be based on the "Proposed Acreage to be Burned" as indicated in Item 2. of the SMP and the corresponding fee in the new open burning fee schedule (See Table 1 below for Marsh Burning Fees from Air District Regulation 3: Fees, Schedule V). The fee payment invoice will be sent to the landowner by email, mail or FAX using the email address, mailing address or facsimile number provided in the Landowner's Certification section of the completed SMP.

Fee Payment – two options available

- **MAIL** a check, cashier's check or money order in the invoiced amount to BAAQMD, ATTN: Accounting, 375 Beale Street, Suite 600 San Francisco, CA 94105. Be sure to write the invoice number on your check.
- **PAY ONLINE** using VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, debit or pre-paid debit cards at: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/permits/open-burn>.

## MARSH MANAGEMENT FIRE SMP INSTRUCTIONS

Please read and follow these instructions.

Clearly write or print the requested information on the SMP (Form MM-1) and on any attachment as needed. **Completing all fields speeds up the evaluation and approval of your SMP.**

1. Property Number & Name: Give the Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD)-designated ownership property number(s) and the property or club name, if applicable. A single SMP may be used for more than one property number when the properties are adjacent and have the same owner.
2. Proposed Acreage to be Burned: Enter the total number of acres you are proposing to burn in the Burn Season indicated below. This amount will determine the corresponding Marsh Management Fire fee, which must be paid prior to burning.
3. Property Location: Give the property address (the actual physical location, not mailing address), and the legal description (township, range, and sections) **or** the north latitude and west longitude (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of the property where the burn will be conducted.
4. Fire Agency: Provide the name of the fire agency that has jurisdiction at the burn site. The three fire agencies with jurisdiction in the Suisun Marsh are the Cordelia, Montezuma, and Suisun Fire Protection Districts.
5. County: Enter the county where the burn will be conducted.
6. Burner's Name: Provide the complete name of the person who will be conducting the burn.
7. Burner's Phone Number: Enter the phone number of the person who will be conducting the burn.
8. Burner's Address: Enter the mailing address of the person who will be conducting the burn.
9. Field Contact Name: Provide the name of the person who can be reached by phone at the burn site or on the property during the burn.
10. 24-Hour Phone Number: Provide the phone number of the field contact or person responsible for the burn who can be reached at any time on a day when burning occurs.
11. Burn Season: Indicate whether you plan to burn during the fall burning period (September 1 through October 15) or the spring burning period (March 1 through April 15), and during what calendar year.
12. Proposed Maximum Number of Acres To Be Burned Per Day: Enter the maximum number of acres you are proposing to burn on any given day.
13. Specify Number of People on Burn Site: Indicate how many people will be on the property prior to and during burning to document surface wind conditions, observe smoke behavior, and to ignite, maintain control of, and extinguish the fire.
14. Vegetation Types to Be Burned: (a) enter the estimated number of acres to be burned by vegetation type (i.e., tall emergent, low emergent, and upland grasslands); and (b) for each vegetation type, characterize the arrangement of the vegetation, expressed as average percent cover and average height.

Example: Let's say that you are planning to burn 20 acres of tall emergent vegetation, and you estimate that 25% of the acreage is covered with vegetation with an average height of 5 feet and

the remaining 75% is covered with vegetation with an average height of 9 feet. To provide the information from this example, enter '20' as the number of acres in the "tall emergent" vegetation type section of the SMP form. Then, in the same section, check the "1 to 5 ft" box on the line that indicates 0-25% coverage and the "8 to 10 ft" on the line that indicates 52-75% coverage.

15. Specific Resource Management Objective(s) and Goal(s) of Burn: Describe the resource management objectives and goals of the burn you are proposing.
16. Consideration of Non-Burning Alternatives: Indicate whether any alternatives to burning have been considered or tried to achieve the resource management objectives and goals of your property. If "yes", explain the extent and success of your efforts. If "no", explain why alternatives to burning were not considered or tried.
17. Burn Site Preparation: Describe what preparations to the burn site you will complete prior to burning to minimize the risk of an "out of control" fire, adverse smoke impacts, and of exceeding burn acreage and burn hour limits.
18. Ignition Technique To Be Used: Describe the technique and materials the burner is planning to use to ignite the fire.
19. Contingency Actions or Measures - Smoke Impacts: Describe what actions **will be taken** by the burner if smoke from the fire adversely impacts any sensitive receptor area. This information may include your ability to extinguish the fire with equipment on the property or with assistance from a fire protection agency.  
  
**Note: "Sensitive receptor areas" are populated areas such as towns or cities, major roads, hospitals, schools and airports.**
20. Other Contingency Actions or Measures: Describe what actions **will be taken** by the burner if the fire is declared "out of control" or continues to advance after 3:00 p.m., or a peat fire is ignited and continues to burn after 3:00 p.m.
21. Range of Surface Wind Conditions: Provide a proposed range of surface wind directions and a minimum and maximum wind speed range for the time of year under which burning is to be conducted. Note: This weather prescription **must be present** prior to ignition and the prescription **must be verified** during any burning.
22. Method of Estimation and Interval of Weather Observations: (a) describe the method you are planning to use to determine the surface wind speed and wind direction prior to ignition; and (b) indicate how frequently you will verify the wind conditions at the burn site during the fire (hourly, ½ hour, etc.).
23. Distance and Directions to Sensitive Receptor Areas: (a) identify **all** sensitive receptor areas within a 10-mile radius from the burn site; and (b) provide the distance(s) in miles and the compass direction(s) from the burn site to **each** sensitive receptor area identified.
24. Landowner's Certification: To complete the SMP, a landowner of the property where the burn is proposed must certify that the information submitted is complete and accurate. To certify the information, the landowner should sign and print their name and include their phone number and facsimile (FAX) number, email address, mailing address and the certification date.

Table 1: Marsh Management Fire (Marsh Burning) Fees

Proposed Acreage to be Burned	Operation Fee
≤50 acres	\$424
>50 acres but ≤ 150 acres	\$577
>150 acres	\$727