

Fact Sheet

Permitting Agricultural Operations in the Bay Area

In response to SB 700, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District is proposing to modify Regulation 1: General Provisions and Definitions; Regulation 2 - Rule 1: General Requirements to include agricultural sources; and adopt a new Regulation 2, Rule 10 for Large Confined Animal Facilities. **It is important to note that few, if any, existing agricultural facilities located in the Bay Area will trigger any new regulatory requirements.**

The proposed changes to District regulations would:

- Require a permit to operate for an agricultural source with actual emissions of any regulated air pollutant (excluding fugitive dust) greater than 50 tons per year;
- Create a new Regulation 2, Rule 10, Large Confined Animal Facilities, which would require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce air pollutant emissions. A large confined animal facility, as defined by the California Air Resources Board, is one that maintains on any one day: 1,000 or more milk-producing dairy cows; 3,500 or more beef cattle; 7,500 or more calves, heifers, or other cattle; 100,000 or more turkeys; 650,000 or more chickens other than laying hens; 650,000 or more laying hens; 3,000 or more swine; 15,000 or more sheep, lambs, or goats; 2,500 or more horses; 650,000 or more ducks; or 30,000 or more rabbits or other animals.

Questions and Answers

What is the jurisdiction of the BAAQMD?

Our jurisdiction includes all of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Napa counties and portions two others – southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma.

What types of agricultural operations are potentially subject to these regulations?

Vineyards (excluding winery/fermentation), orchards, vegetable and field crops, feedlots, ranches including the raising of cattle, horses, swine, poultry, etc., dairies, nurseries, and confined animal facilities are examples of agricultural operations.

What are actual emissions?

Air pollution emissions from equipment or activities at a facility during any 12-month period based on normal operating conditions. Regulated pollutants include nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and particulate matter (PM).

What activities/equipment are included when calculating emissions?

- Stationary and portable engines using any fuel: including irrigation pumps, standby power generators, and frost protection equipment
- Heaters and boilers
- Confined animal facilities: dairies, cattle feedlots, poultry, horses, etc.
- Gasoline storage and dispensing

What activities/equipment are not included when calculating emissions?

- All electrically driven equipment
- Vehicles and mobile equipment such as tractors, harvesters and sprayers
- Fugitive dust from tilling and paved/unpaved roads
- Pesticides and fertilizers
- Open burning
- Diesel storage and dispensing

How are actual emissions calculated?

Historical records of activities, such as fuel usage or hours of operation, can be used to estimate emissions.

How do I know if my facility exceeds the 50 ton per year trigger level?

Due to the nature and scale of the agricultural industry in the Bay Area, it is unlikely that any facility exceeds this trigger level. As an example, a diesel engine would need to consume approximately 232,000 gallons of fuel to emit 50 tons per year of nitrogen oxides. District staff is available to help you calculate whether you exceed 50 tons per year based on your equipment. Please call (415) 749-4681.

Are the requirements of SB 700 the same throughout the California?

All air districts in California must adopt regulations pursuant to SB 700, however, areas with more severe air pollution problems may have more stringent requirements, including lower permit trigger levels.

To learn more about the Bay Area Air Quality Management District visit our web site at www.baaqmd.gov. Additional information on Senate Bill 700 can be found on the California Air Resources Board website at www.arb.ca.gov/ag/sb700/sb700.htm.