



Field Swapping and Ready-to-Burn List Modifications

Under the existing Rules & Regulations of the Butte County Air Quality Management District, as well as the guidelines of the Basin Smoke Management Program, swapping field positions on the ready to burn list, including two (2) or more fields for one (1) field, while not addressed specifically, is implicitly allowed. The following guidelines are District policy to be applied when conditionally authorizing swaps and ready-to-burn list modifications. (Note: there is a local administrative distinction in terminology; swapping generally means switching list positions on the ready to burn list.)

1. The field must be registered as a current planted field. For rice straw, the field must meet the requirements for burning under a Conditional Rice Straw Burn Permit.
2. A 10% limit on field size increase exists, i.e., two 60-acre fields could be swapped for a 110-acre field, but could not be swapped for a 100-acre field. If the swap results in a net decrease in the amount of acreage at the top of the list to be burned, then the 10% limit would not apply.
3. Swapping within a grower's fields can be done over the phone, with District staff preparing the paperwork and cost incurred to be billed. However, in accordance with State law, swapping or trading which involves two or more permittees is not allowed. All swaps require a paper trail as well as computer data entry.
4. If more than two (2) fields are involved in the swap, then the largest field involved must assume the lowest list number of the three (3) fields. The intent is to keep the system equitable for all growers.
5. Splitting a field requires that the data sheet be modified.
6. Swapped fields may not be eligible for burning on the same day of the swap.
7. Because the morning hours are reserved for performing the logistics of placing and calling out rice field allocations to growers on the ready to burn list, any request for swaps, including office visits and phone calls, should be placed 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Requests made outside of those hours may not be processed until the next business day.
8. Costs: A \$25 modification fee will be charged and deemed payable at the time of each swap or modification of the initial registration form as determined by Rule 507.