

SLO APCD Burn Program

South Central Coast
Basin Control Council
Jan 22, 2026

Karl Tupper, APCO



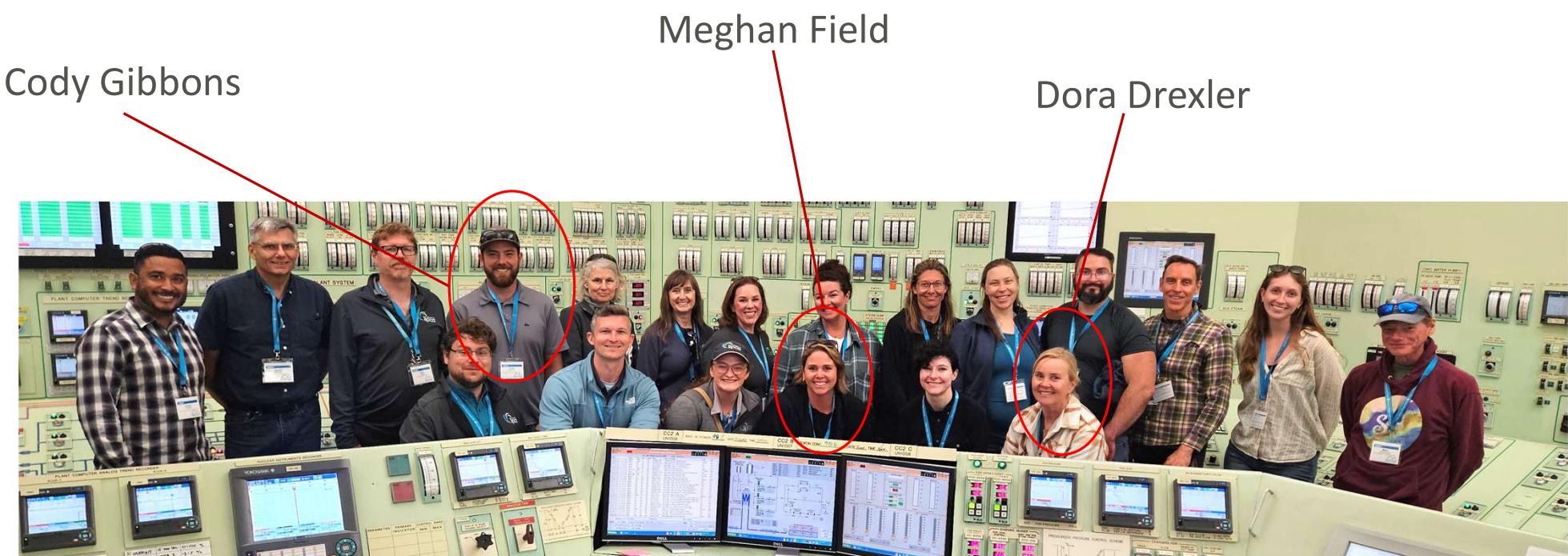
Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

Outline

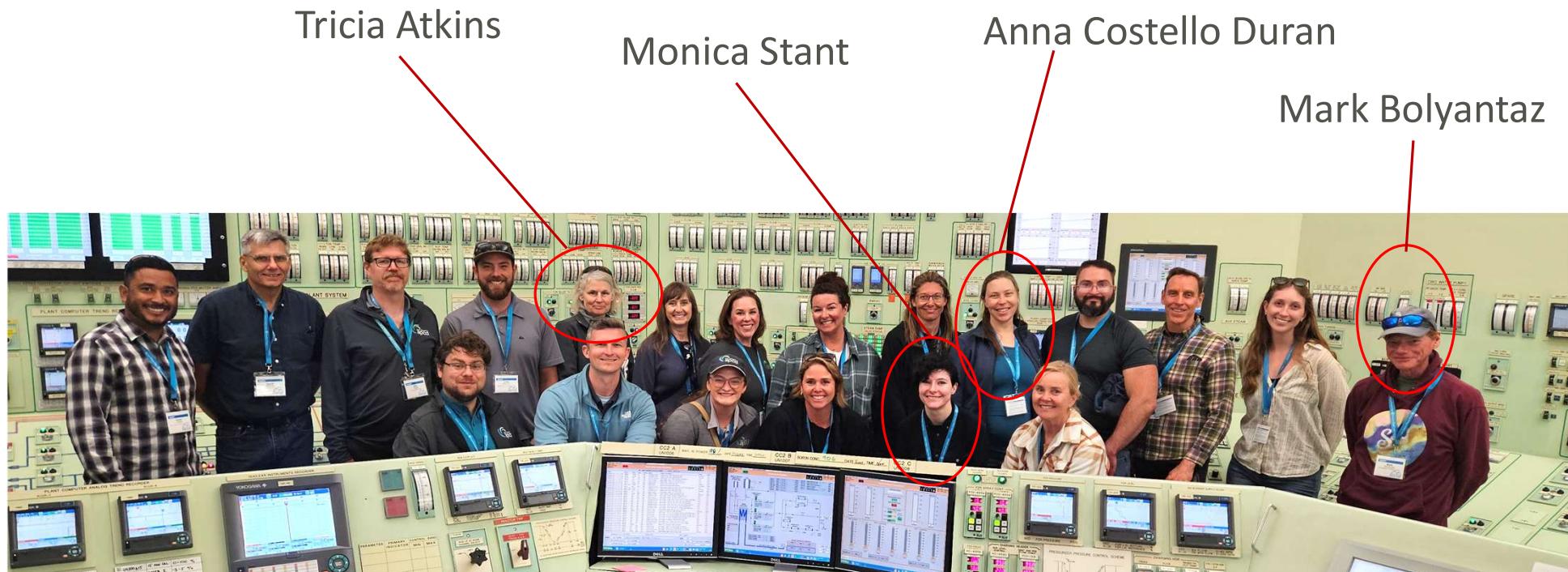
- Rules
- Burn day declaration
- Backyard burning
- Ag burning
- Special Burn Permits
- Rx Burning
- Biochar Kilns



Burn Team



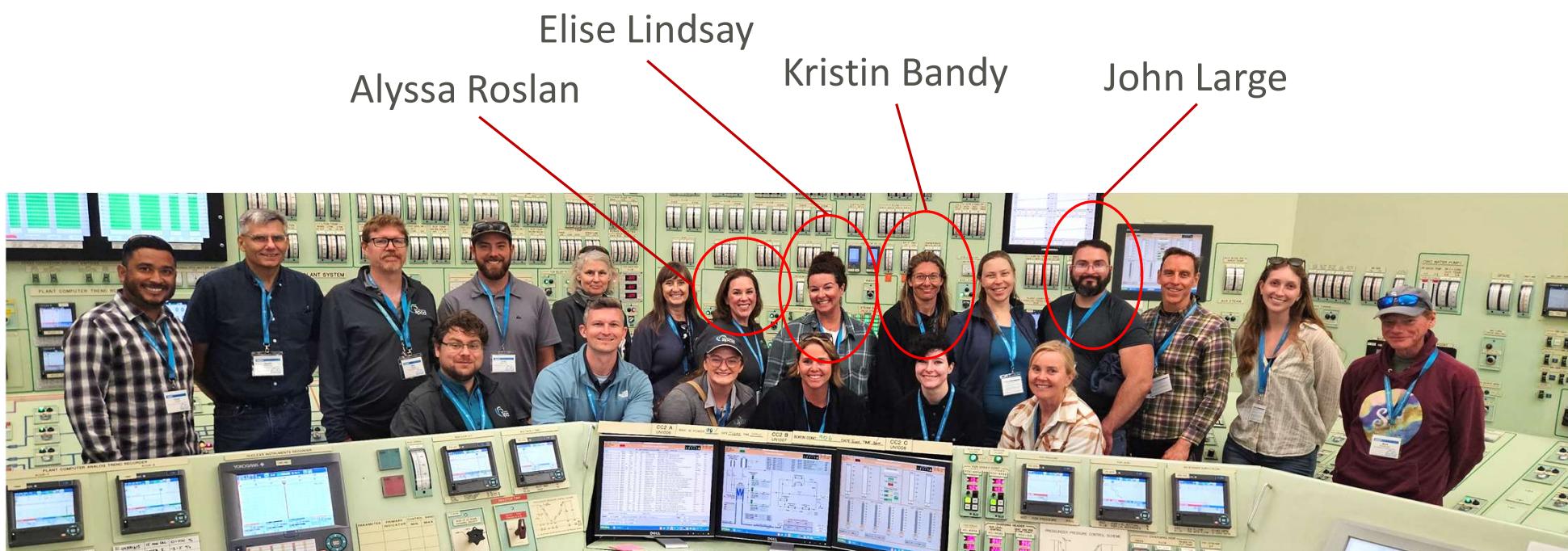
Burn Team



Burn Team



Burn Team



Burning Rules

Rule 501: General Burning Provisions

- Creates Permit System:
 - Backyard Burning
 - Other Burn Types:
 - Fire Hazard Reduction
 - Training
 - Disease or Pest Prevention
 - Right-of-way
- Exempts cooking and campfires
- Exempts backfires
- Bans Burn Barrels

Rule 502: Ag and Rx Burning

- Creates Permit System:
 - Ag Burns
- Creates Burn Authorization System:
 - Prescribed
 - Range Improvement

Burn Day Status

← → C  slocleanair.org

Regular APCD Office Hours are Mon - Thurs; 8am - 5pm
Fridays by appointment

Click here for Backyard Burn Permit Info

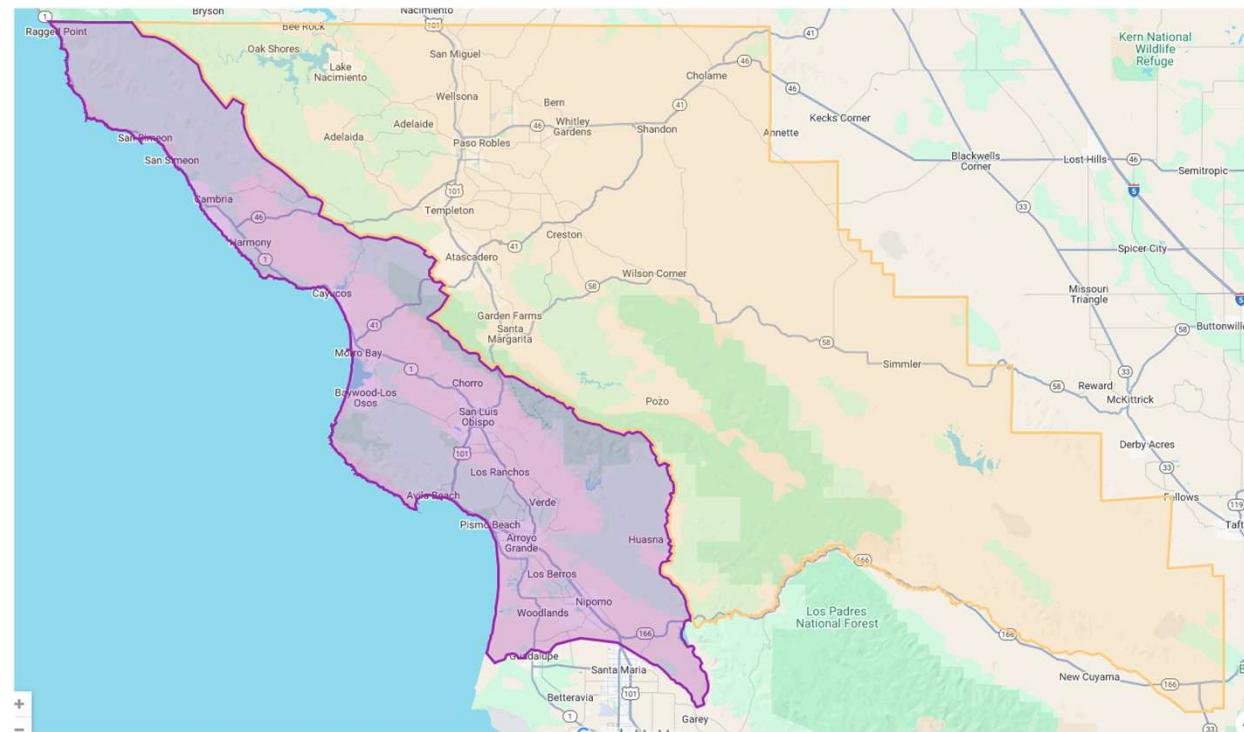
BURN DAY STATUS
Jan 21 - Active burn permit required.

COASTAL **INLAND**

SLO COUNTY APCD Air Pollution Control District San Luis Obispo County

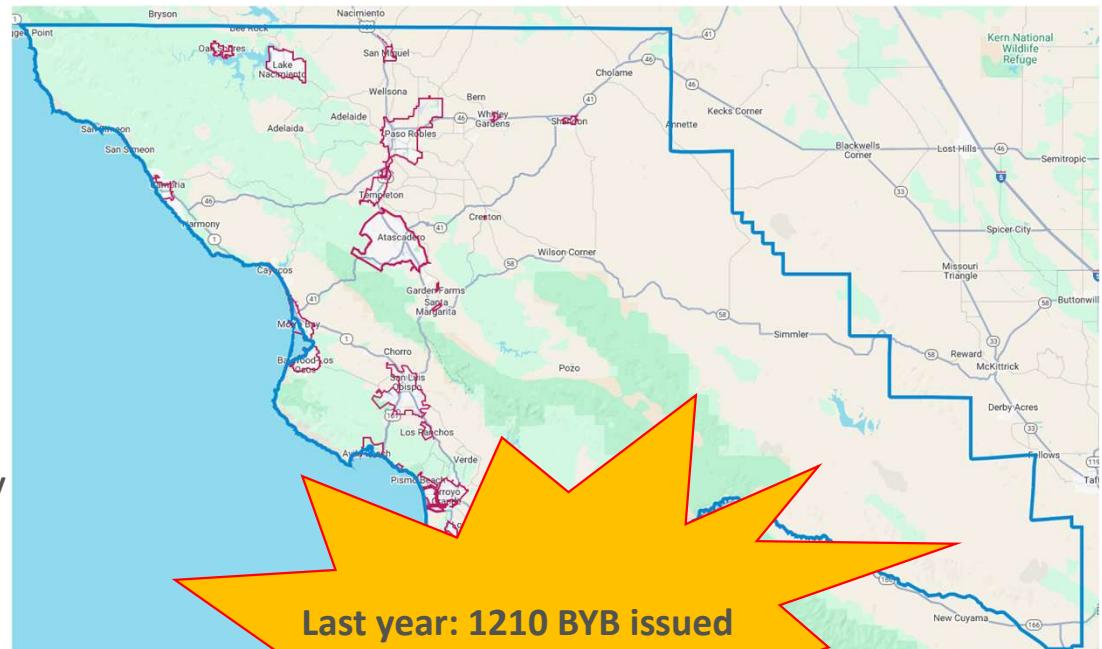
Who We Are Air Quality Rules & Fees



Burn Zones: **Coastal** and **Inland**

Backyard Burning

- Restrictions:
 - Outside URL/VRL
 - SFR or Duplex
 - Burn Season
 - ~ Dec thru April 30
 - Permissive Burn Day only
 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. only
 - Only clean green waste from property
 - Piles up to 4' high × 6' diameter
 - Cannot create nuisance
- Permits:
 - \$50
 - CAL FIRE LE-62a issued simultaneously
 - Online, in person, via mail



Last year: 1210 BYB issued
This year: 680 so far

Agricultural Burning - General

- Restrictions:
 - Anywhere in county except Templeton
 - City permit may also be required
 - Must derive income from Ag
 - Year-round; permit good for 12 months
 - Permissive Burn Day only
 - Can burn overnight
 - Only clean green waste from property
 - Up to 100 tons; No restrictions
 - Cannot create nuisance

- Permits:

- \$100
- CAL FIRE LE-62a or LE-5 issued simultaneously
- Online, in person, via mail

2025: 600+ Ag Burn Permits
2026: 84 so far



Agricultural Burning - Special

- Over 100 tons:
 - Smoke Management Plan (SMP) Required
 - Inspection may be required
 - Additional Fees
- Pest Management:
 - Burning only Tumbleweed (Russian Thistle) or other pest if approved by Ag Commissioner
 - May burn on No Burn Day
 - No Fee
- Grape Stake Exemption
 - Non-galvanized wire and stakes allowed in piles
 - SMP and APCP inspection required
 - Additional Fees



Special Burn Permits

- Right of Way
 - Dams, waterways, roads
 - Public Agencies only; no fee.
- Firefighter Training
 - Public Agencies only; no fee.
 - Asbestos notice and remediation required
- Small Project Burn
 - Outside URL/VRL
 - No residence, no ag. Typically HOAs.
 - Same Restrictions as Backyard Burns
 - Fee: \$100; APCD inspection required
- Fire Hazard Reduction
 - Inside URL/VRL
 - Local fire official must deem necessarily
 - Same Restrictions as Backyard Burns
 - No fee.



Prescribed Burning

- What: Large broadcast or multiple piles
- Why: Hazard reduction, range improvement, habitat improvement, cultural reasons
- Who: CAL FIRE, State Parks, National Guard, U.S.F.S., YTT, Range Improvement Assoc.
- How:
 - Burn Plan and SMP via PFIRS
 - No fee if public agency is the lead
- APCD Role:
 - Approve SMP
 - Public outreach
 - Forecasting
 - Authorize ignition
 - Smoke monitoring

2025:
7 Rx Burns, 2000+ acres



2024 Camp San Luis – 230 acres



2





2025 Gilardi Burn – 234 acres



2025 Dairy Creek Burn led by Cal Poly. 30 ac.

Biochar Kilns



Biochar Kilns



- Device authorized by APCO
- Need Burn Permit for each unique location

Questions and Comments



Air Pollution Control District
San Luis Obispo County

