



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

Cody Gibbons

Meghan Field

Dora Drexler



Burn Team

Tricia Atkins

Monica Stant

Anna Costello Duran

Mark Bolyantaz



Burn Team



Burn Team

Elise Lindsay
Alyssa Roslan Kristin Bandy John Large



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

← → ↻ slocleanair.org

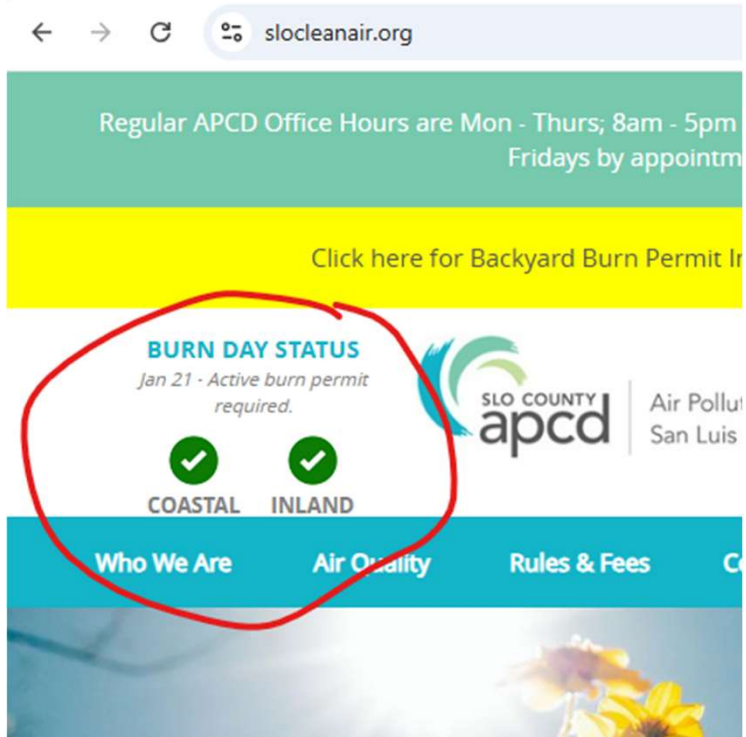
Regular APCD Office Hours are Mon - Thurs; 8am - 5pm
Fridays by appointment

[Click here for Backyard Burn Permit Information](#)

BURN DAY STATUS
Jan 21 - Active burn permit required.

☒ **COASTAL** ☒ **INLAND**

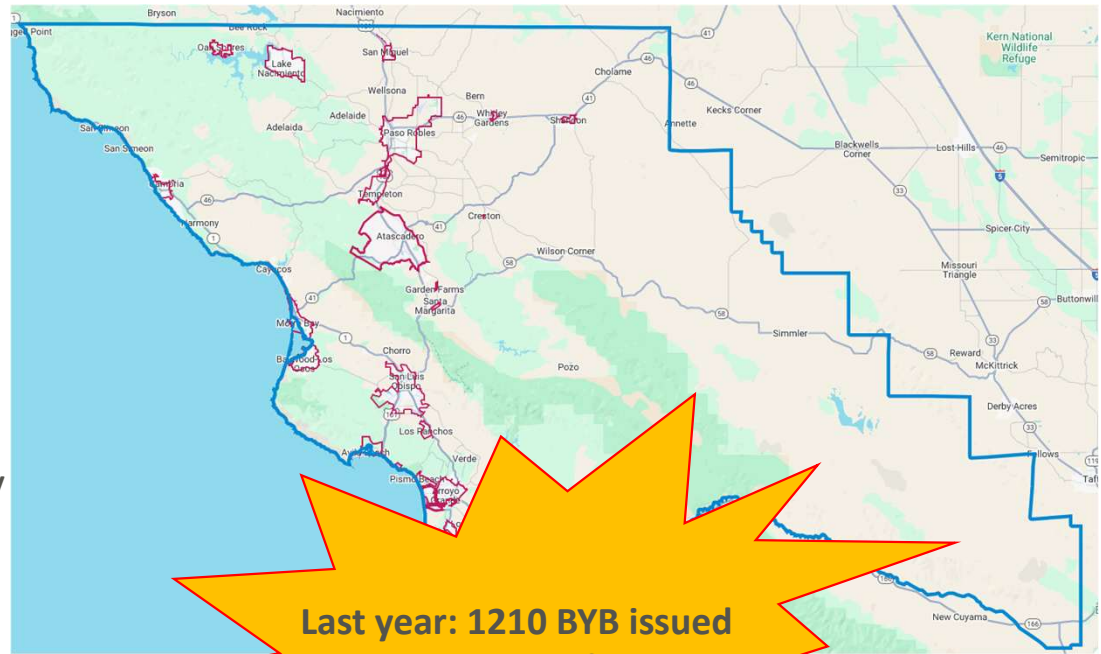
[Who We Are](#) [Air Quality](#) [Rules & Fees](#) [Contact Us](#)



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 restriction on burning
 - Cannot create nuisance
- Permits:
 - \$100
 - CAL FIRE LE-62a or LE-51336 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 Gaurd, 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







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



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San Luis Obispo County

