

# NEWS RELEASE

CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT

**Unit Chief**

*John Owens*



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## CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT TO ASSIST WITH CULTURAL BURN

**San Luis Obispo County, CA** — Community members can expect to see smoke near Vineyard Drive and Hwy 46 in Paso Robles on Tuesday, Dec 16th, during planned cultural burns on the Willow Creek Conservancy. These cultural burns are interagency operations hosted by the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, with support from the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit, and SLO County Air Pollution Control District (SLO County APCD).

Smoke will be visible in nearby communities on the day of the burns. The timing of these burns depends on weather and air quality conditions that are suitable for smoke dispersal. If conditions are not ideal, the burns may be rescheduled.

### About Cultural Burns

Indigenous Tribes of California have had a cultural relationship with fire for over 10,000 years and recognize its role and responsibility to support life on the land. These cultural burns are controlled, often smaller burns, that are led by Cultural Fire Practitioners for the purpose of revitalizing plants, reducing wildfire risk, enhancing habitat, and broadly maintaining Indigenous lifeways and native ecosystems. Similar to prescribed burns, cultural burns are an important tool used to minimize fire hazards and the likelihood of uncontrolled future wildfires that would have the potential to induce significant air quality impacts on the local community.



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