NEWS RELEASE

CAL FIRE SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT

Unit Chief
John Owens

November 17th, 2026

SLO COUNTY TO OPEN BACKYARD BURNING SEASON

San Luis Obispo, CA – Following the recent rains and improved fuel moisture levels, **CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit** and the **San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD)** are pleased to announce the transition to backyard burning beginning **Monday, November 23rd, 2026.**

Thanks to recent precipitation and a promising weather forecast, green grass is emerging throughout the county, and fuel moisture levels have stabilized, with an outlook of further improvement. We are confident that on **November 23rd, 2026**, it will be safe to resume controlled burning on approved burn days in accordance with **CAL FIRE** and **APCD** regulations.

CONTINUED FOR THE 2026-2027 BURN SEASON

- **Streamlined Permitting Process**: Backyard burners using **SLOCleanAir.org** to obtain a permit will receive *both* the APCD Backyard Burn Permit and CAL FIRE's Residential LE62a Burn Permit simultaneously when the burn season opens.
- **Online Permit Access**: New applicants can obtain their burn permits online, eliminating the need for paper forms or in-person visits. Applicants will need to call to complete the payment process.
- For agricultural burning, individuals who meet CAL FIRE's criteria for a **LE-5** or **LE-7** Burn Permit must apply directly through CAL FIRE's online application process at: **burnpermit.fire.ca.gov**
- Always adhere to the terms and conditions of your burn permit.
- Monitor weather conditions and always check the Burn Day Status, prior to burning, at SLOCleanAir.org or by calling 800-834-2876, prior to burning
- Ensure that a water source and tools are available on-site for fire control, and never leave your burn unattended.
- Follow all local and state regulations to minimize smoke impacts on air quality.

For more information about the backyard burning program, visit the SLO County APCD website at **SLOCleanAir.org** or contact *CAL FIRE* San Luis Obispo Unit at **805-242-6250**.

By working together to manage vegetation and reduce fire hazards, we can help protect our community while supporting healthy ecosystems.

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