



# Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Summer | 2002

## Valley Air District Prepares for Extreme

The Valley Air District's Governing Board has signaled its intent to voluntarily ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to downgrade the air basin's smog classification.

During the June meeting, the Governing Board directed staff members to prepare for the change in status. Board members instructed employees to submit an expeditious rule development schedule for all feasible control measures; prepare an attainment demonstration plan targeting 2010; and prepare the formal downgrade request in the form of a resolution to be voted upon by the board no later than September 2003.

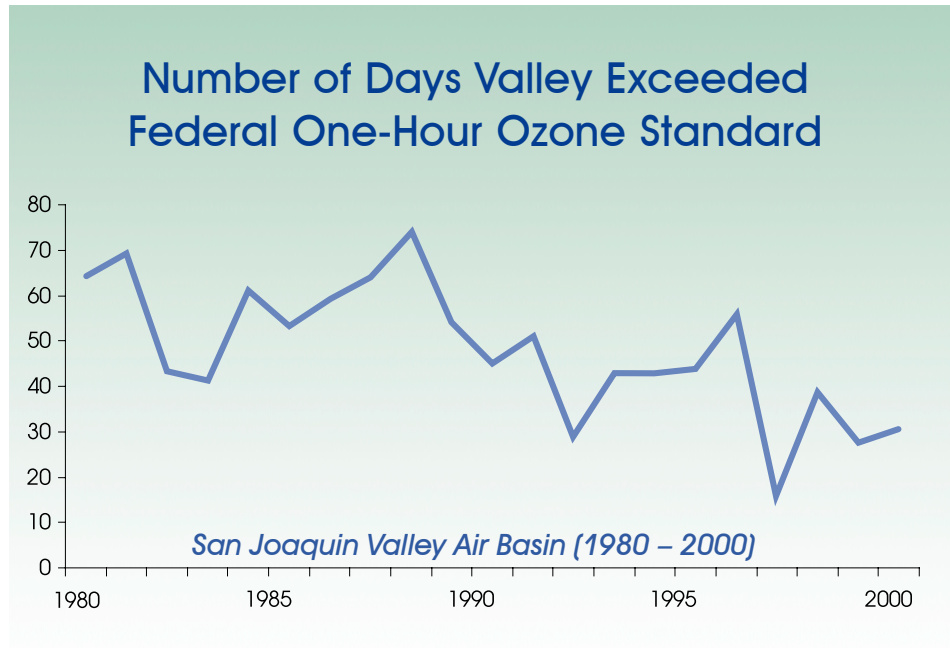
The Valley air basin currently is classified "severe non-attainment" for the federal one-hour ozone standard. Ozone, which is the primary ingredient in smog, damages human lungs and can exacerbate or cause lung conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

If requested and granted, a status downgrade would place the Valley in "extreme non-attainment," the worst possible classification. The South Coast air basin, which includes Los Angeles, is the only region nationwide currently designated extreme.

"This decision doesn't mean there will be a delay in improving air quality in the San Joaquin Valley," said Air Pollution Control Officer, David L. Crow. "Staff members will continue proposing air pollution rules for the Governing Board's approval, such as the 13 rules and amendments we have scheduled for the next 18 months.

The request for a downgrade deals only with Clean Air Act sanctions," he said.

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David L. Crow  
Air Pollution Control Officer,  
SJVAPCD



Although the number of days the Valley exceeded the federal one-hour ozone standard has declined, the improvements aren't expected to be enough to meet the 2005 deadline.

Under the current severe classification, the air basin would need to demonstrate clean air data beginning in 2003 to meet the federal standard by 2005. Computer models indicate that a 30 percent decrease in ozone-forming emissions will be needed to meet the standard.

The Air District regulates only stationary sources of pollution, such as factories, refineries and other industrial processes. The Valley Air District doesn't have legal authority to regulate mobile sources, which account for nearly 60 percent of the valley's smog problem. Therefore, the District cannot identify enough pollution reductions under its control to meet the 2005 EPA deadline.

A downgrade to extreme non-attainment would give the Valley air basin a new attainment deadline of 2010. The state and federal governments have plans to adopt mobile source emissions controls that will take affect after 2005. Such controls will help the Valley air basin meet the ozone standard. Given the implausibility of meeting the 2005 deadline, Governing Board members are considering the voluntary downgrade as a means of avoiding the sanctions.

The Air District's Governing Board is comprised of 11 county supervisors and elected city representatives from throughout the Valley. For more information about the Air District and for a schedule of upcoming meetings and workshops, visit the Valley Air District's website.

## Governing Board Review

*The Governing Board took the following actions during the June 20<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting.*

- The Governing Board adopted Rule 4311 (Flares) to satisfy Reasonably Available Control Technology requirements of the Clean Air Act.
- The Governing Board directed staff to prepare an extreme ozone attainment demonstration plan and to present it to the Board by December 2003. The Board also directed staff to proceed in developing all feasible control measures of sources within the District's control.
- Approved early return of Lower-Emission School Bus Retrofit Program funds to the California Air Resources Board in the amount of \$370,000.

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15, at 9:00 am in the District's central office in Fresno, and via video-teleconference in the Modesto and Bakersfield offices.

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Fresno, CA 93726-0244

**Northern Region Office**  
4230 Kiernan Ave., #130  
Modesto, CA 95356-9322

**Southern Region Office**  
2700 M Street, #275  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2373



[www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org)

## Smog Check II Expands in Valley

Six more cities in the San Joaquin Valley now are subject to the enhanced vehicle maintenance and inspection program known as Smog Check II. Cars and light trucks in Merced, Lodi, Tracy, Manteca, Turlock and Visalia – 21 ZIP codes in all – were added in May to the more stringent smog test program.

Smog Check II is implemented in areas of the state that don't meet air quality standards. The enhanced program initially was adopted for Valley communities with populations of 100,000 or more, while smaller communities continued to take part in Basic Smog Check. Last year, the Valley Air District asked the Bureau of Automotive Repair to expand Smog Check II to more areas of the Valley. The request was approved and effective May 1, cities with populations of 50,000 or more became subject to Smog Check II. Valley-wide, about 90 percent of all cars and light trucks now are subject to the stricter emissions tests.

### What's Different?

First, Smog Check II requires the use of a dynamometer, a treadmill-like device that tests tailpipe emissions at more realistic workloads than the basic Smog Check test in which a vehicle's tires don't move. Unlike the traditional method, a dynamometer also measures smog-forming nitrogen oxides.

Secondly, Smog Check II also requires 15 percent of all vehicles, as well as gross polluters, to go to test-only stations.

The program expansion in the Valley is expected to result in the elimination of six to eight tons per day of smog-forming emissions.

## Kids, Submit Your Clean-Air Artwork

Come one come all – the District's 2003 Kids Calendar Contest is underway! All San Joaquin Valley children in Kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to enter the contest and use their artistic abilities to depict creative clean-air messages, activities or concepts.

Drawings may be in crayon, colored markers or watercolors and must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" unlined white paper. The paper should be oriented sideways (landscaped) and the child's name, phone number, address, school, and age should be printed clearly on the back.



Student artist, Desirae Nunez illustrates that butterflies and people need clean-air.

The winning entries will be from three categories – grades K-2, 3-4 and 5-6, and the winning artists will receive a calendar featuring their work, as well as other clean-air prizes.

This is a fun and exciting way for children to learn about air pollution. School districts, scout troops, and daycare facilities throughout the Valley are invited and encouraged to use the contest as an educational tool.

**Deadline to enter is September 30<sup>th</sup>**

For more details about the contest, log on the District's website at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org), or call the District's Public Education staff in Fresno and Modesto at (559) 230-5800 or in Bakersfield at (661) 326-6900.

## Cutting Edge Technology Helps Improve Air Quality

Portable combustion gas analyzers are helping improve air quality and save money in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Valley Air District regulates emissions of air pollutants from stationary sources by adopting regulations and issuing permits that limit the pollution a business or source can produce. Many sources are required to monitor their own emissions. Most large facilities have Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems that record emissions 24 hours a day. Other sources employ alternative monitoring methods or traditional source tests conducted by state-certified monitoring firms.

But some sources aren't subject to testing requirements and those that undergo source tests sometimes have up to five years between tests. Therefore, the Air District uses portable analyzers to verify independently that sources are following the rules and meeting the conditions of their permits.

Portable analyzers are the size of small suitcases and use chemical sensors and electronics to precisely measure the pollutants emitted by any fuel-burning source. In the summer of 2000, after two years of extensive field trials, the Air District's compliance division began using the portable analyzers regularly.

The analyzers look a lot like the instruments used to smog-check automobiles, but they evaluate a greater number of compounds at higher temperatures. The analyzers measure carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, hydrocarbons and oxygen, as well as flow rates and stack temperatures.

The portable analyzers have helped increase the compliance rate for regulated



Patrick Houlihan, an inspector with the Air District's southern region office in Bakersfield, prepares to use a portable combustion gas analyzer during an inspection of water pumps.

sources, which means air pollution is being reduced. But the analyzers also save money. Many facilities now do their own portable monitoring and are able to keep their equipment in better condition, thus avoiding violations and reducing fuel consumption. Also, after citing a violation, the Air District often uses the analyzers to verify that a source has returned to compliance instead of requiring an expensive and time-consuming source test.

The Valley Air District was the first in the country to utilize portable combustion gas analyzers for enforcement purposes. But their use is catching on. For several years now, the EPA has been considering certifying them for use in official source tests.

## Reporters Honored for Air Coverage

Three *Bakersfield Californian* reporters recently were honored for their coverage of air quality issues in the San Joaquin

Valley. "Last Gasp," a special report on Bakersfield's air quality, received two separate journalism awards, one sponsored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association and one by the Kern Press Club. "Last Gasp," published in April 2001, was written by reporters Kerry Cavanaugh, Christine Bedell and Michelle Terwilliger.

## Breath of Fresh Air

The Valley Air District congratulates the recipients of this year's American Lung Association Central California awards.

The awards are given to individuals and groups for their outstanding work in fighting lung disease and its causes.

### Henry A. Randel Memorial Award

*Sandra Eaton*

*ALACC Program Director*

### President's Award

*Robert Powers*

*Certified Public Accountant, Fresno*

### Educator Of The Year Award

*Jerry Grieco*

*Tarpey Elementary School, Clovis*

### Business Award

*Print Shack, Fresno*

### Good Government Award

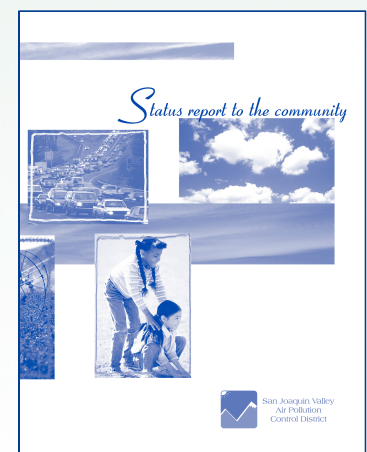
*City of Madera*

### Clean Air Award

*City of Tulare*

## Status Report

The Valley Air District's 2002 Status Report to the Community is now available. Copies are available free of charge by calling (559) 230-5800.



# Valley Air District Directory

## San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Smog Info Line ..... (800) 766-4463  
 Smoking Vehicle ..... (800) 559-9247  
 Job Line ..... (559) 230-6019  
 Web Site ..... www.valleyair.org

**Northern Region Office** ..... (209) 557-6400  
 Complaint Line ..... (800) 281-7003  
 Small Business Assistance ..... (209) 557-6446

**Central Region Office** ..... (559) 230-6000  
 Complaint Line ..... (800) 870-1037  
 Small Business Assistance ..... (559) 230-5888

**Southern Region Office** ..... (661) 326-6900  
 Complaint Line ..... (800) 926-5550  
 Small Business Assistance ..... (661) 326-6969

# 2002 Governing Board

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Councilmember Sam Armentrout, City of Madera

## Vice Chair

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 Supervisor Nick W. Blom, Stanislaus County  
 Supervisor Judith G. Case, Fresno County  
 Councilmember Mike Maggard, City of Bakersfield  
 Supervisor Jerry O'Banion, Merced County  
 Supervisor Barbara Patrick, Kern County  
 Supervisor William Sanders, Tulare County  
 Supervisor Jack A. Sieglock, San Joaquin County

## Clerk to the Board

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