



Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Winter | 2004

Air District takes "extreme" measures

With the Valley Air District Governing Board's decision in December to seek a downgrade in the Valley's federal one-hour ozone-attainment status, officials of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District are confident a possible new, 2010 deadline will be met.

"Extending the deadline will not alter the pace of our pollution control program," said Dave Crow, the District's Air Pollution Control Officer. "It will however, allow the effects from crucial state and federal emission controls to be realized," he added.

The action is now being reviewed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

The District is currently designated "severe" non-attainment for the federal one-hour ozone standard. Ozone is the primary component of smog. With the "severe" designation also comes a 2005 attainment deadline. A failure to meet that deadline would mean significant penalties to the Valley.

However, a change in status to "extreme" non-attainment would extend the deadline by which the District has to meet standards from 2005 to 2010. This time period is crucial because new state and federal regulations governing vehicle emissions, which account for about 60 percent of the smog problem, are scheduled to go into effect after 2005.

There are other direct benefits to the Valley's population by going to "extreme": Valley businesses would be spared fees of up to \$36 million annually, which would be imposed if the "severe" deadline of 2005 was not met, and \$2.2 billion in federal highway funds would be salvaged.

The primary disadvantage of a redesignation would be the extension of federal permitting requirements to about 150 additional Valley businesses. Currently, the District requires federal permits for about 300 businesses. Now that agricultural operations are no longer exempt from federal permitting requirements, it is expected that about 1,000 Valley farms will be required to obtain federal permits as well.

But weighing all the options, District staff point out that the negative label of "extreme" – shared by just one other air basin in the country, the South Coast air basin -- pales in comparison to the negative impact of failing to meet the 2005 deadline.

"We are confident that incorporating the state and federal fuel emission standard changes that are looming will enable us to fully comply with ozone cleanup requirements, and dramatically improve the air quality for all of us," said Crow.

2004 calendars present a clearer future



The 2004 kids art calendar has arrived. Read about the calendar and art contest on page 2.

Also in this issue:

More wood-burning rules, pg. 2

New exhibit at Challenger Learning Center, pg. 3

2004 kids art calendar contest, pg. 2

Governing Board highlights, pg. 3

New requirements for wood-burning heaters affect home sales, new construction

Anyone buying or selling a home in 2004 should be aware of new requirements.

Air pollution regulations now govern the types of wood-burning fireplace inserts and freestanding stoves that can remain in San Joaquin Valley homes when they're sold or transferred. Rule 4901, amended by the Valley Air District in July 2003 to further reduce wintertime particulate pollution, allows only open-hearth fireplaces and the cleanest wood-burning heaters to remain in a home when it is sold or transferred. The rule also limits the number of wood-burning heaters allowed in new homes and new developments.

As of Jan. 1, 2004, when a home is sold or transferred, the seller is required to certify that any wood-burning heater left in the home is an open-hearth fireplace, a pellet-fueled heater or an EPA Phase II-certified insert or stove. Any other wood-burning heater has to be removed, replaced or rendered permanently inoperable by the seller before the real estate transaction can be completed. A signed Statement of Compliance must be returned to the District for all real estate transactions that include a wood-burning stove or insert. The requirement doesn't apply to cooking stoves.

Also as of Jan. 1, Rule 4901 restricts the number and type of wood-burning devices that can be installed in new residential developments.

For example, in developments with a density ratio of two or fewer homes per acre, one wood-burning heater is allowed per home. Other restrictions apply and more details are available at www.valleyair.org or by calling a local Air District office.

Wood-burning fireplaces and stoves are a significant source of particulate matter air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley. Due to the severity of the Valley's wintertime air

pollution problem, the Air District is mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce particulate matter emissions Valley-wide.

No Exemptions

Although some homes are exempt from other air pollution rules, the requirement to remove, replace or render permanently inoperable, dirtier wood-burning heaters applies to all home transactions within the jurisdiction of the Valley Air District. The requirement does not apply, however, to natural gas- or propane-fueled devices.

Wood stoves and fireplace inserts manufactured prior to July 1, 1990, will most likely NOT be EPA Phase II-certified and will need to be removed before the close of the real estate transaction (or escrow).

Wood stoves and fireplace inserts manufactured after July 1, 1990, are more likely to be in compliance with the requirement. To be certain, stove and insert owners should check for a metal plate or sticker that verifies the device's manufacture date and certification level. Although wood-burning heaters are now required to be EPA Phase II-certified before they can be sold, the seller should ensure that the sticker or label is present on used stoves or those imported from outside of the United States. For more information, and a listing of certified devices, visit www.epa.gov/compliance/monitoring/programs/woodstoves.

Failure to comply with the requirements could lead to the seller being responsible for future costs of replacement or removal of the equipment and fines.

For more information about this and other air quality or compliance issues, visit www.valleyair.org or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

Clearer future present in art by children

The Valley Air District's 2004 calendar, For a Clearer Future, was distributed to thousands of San Joaquin Valley businesses, schools and households free-of-charge. The calendar features 14 full-color original drawings by students in elementary, intermediate and high school.

"While all of the entries demonstrated artistic talent and recognized the importance of clean air, it was a challenge selecting only 14 drawings to appear in the calendar. The winning entries are colorful, creative and depict how each student perceives air quality in the Valley," said Janis Parker, Air Quality Educator with the Valley Air District.

This year's cover artist is Saira Delgado, a fourth grader at Sanger Academy Charter School. Her colorful artwork features various activities taking place around the world and proclaiming, SPARE THE AIR FOR THE EARTH AND US! For a complete list of the winners of the 2004 calendar contest and for details on the 2005 calendar contest, log onto www.valleyair.org or call the central region office at (559) 230-5800, the northern region office at (209) 557-6400 or the southern region office at (661) 326-6900.



Saira Delgado, this year's calendar contest winner



District Public Education Representative Anthony Presto displays Challenger's newest exhibit.

Promoting clean air to kids at Castle

In January, the District unveiled its new exhibit at the Castle Challenger Learning Center's Science and Technology Center. The exhibit allows visitors to play an air pollution modeling program, view and receive an explanation of the day's air quality, learn the locations of all the air quality monitoring sites in the Valley and receive other air pollution education. The Center is located in Atwater at the site of the former Castle Air Force Base.

The computer-modeling program, "Smog City," allows visitors to control air pollution sources and conditions in a make-believe city and see the resulting air quality levels. Controls include wind, sun, temperature, clouds, number of on and off-road vehicles, population, industry and housing. The program displays an Air Quality Index (AQI) so that users can witness the outcome of their control over Smog City's environment.

A five-foot tall Air Quality Index is also displayed next to the Smog City terminal. The AQI includes lights behind each color category. Everyday, Center personnel turn on a light behind the appropriate category to advise visitors what the air quality level is for that day. Each color category is complete with an air quality description and health cautionary statement.

The District's exhibit also displays a three-foot by three-foot, illuminated, full color map of the eight counties that comprise the District and points out the locations of every air quality monitoring site in the Valley.

The Castle Challenger Learning Center is dedicated to the education of science and is aimed at children. The Center routinely accommodates large groups of children to run simulations of NASA space shuttle missions and participate in the interactive exhibits at the Science and Technology Center.

Board Meeting Highlights

For complete agendas and minutes, please visit the Valley Air District's web site at www.valleyair.org.

October

- The Chair introduced and welcomed a new Governing Board member, Councilmember Dan Prince, City of Ripon, Small City representative.
- The Board approved an additional \$1 motor vehicle surcharge fee on all applicable vehicles in the District. The additional \$2.4 million generated annually from this action will provide incentives for motor vehicle emission reduction programs.

November

There was no Governing Board meeting held in November.

December

- The Board elected Barbara Patrick of Kern County as the Governing Board Chair, and Thomas Mayfield of Stanislaus County as Vice Chair.
- The Board voted unanimously to request the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classify the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin as "extreme nonattainment" for the federal one-hour ozone standard.
- The Board approved amendments to the 2003 PM10 Plan. The amendments provide clarification and documentation for the District's emission reduction credit trading policy, transportation conformity for future year budgets, and control measures for several source categories.

January

- The Board approved a staffing increase to implement new state permitting and pollution controls for agricultural sources.
- The Board adopted amendments to rule 4604 to include stricter coating emission standards and spray equipment requirements for can and drum manufacturing operations.

Meeting Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, [559] 230-6000. February's meeting has been cancelled.

Governing Board meetings are also held via video teleconference in the offices below:

- Northern Region Office, 4230 Kiernan Ave., #130, Modesto, [209] 557-6400
- Southern Region Office, 2700 M St., Suite 275, Bakersfield, [661] 326-6900.

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
 Valley Air District 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

2004 Governing Board

Chair

Supervisor Barbara Patrick, Kern County

Vice Chair

Supervisor Thomas Mayfield, Stanislaus County

Board Members

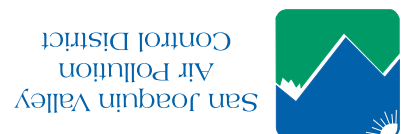
Councilmember Sam Armentrout, City of Madera
 Supervisor Tony Barba, Kings County
 Supervisor Ronn Dominici, Madera County
 Supervisor Judith G. Case, Fresno County
 Councilmember Mike Maggard, City of Bakersfield
 Supervisor Mike Nelson, Merced County
 Supervisor J. Steven Worthley, Tulare County
 Supervisor Jack A. Sieglock, San Joaquin County
 Councilmember Dan Prince, City of Ripon

Clerk to the Boards

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