



# Valley Air News

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## New air quality monitoring site rises in Tracy

After four years of planning, construction has begun on a state-of-the-art air monitoring station in Tracy. The new site, located at the Tracy Airport, will measure ozone, particulate matter of two different sizes, nitrogen oxides, wind speed, wind direction and barometric pressure. No other monitoring station in the San Joaquin Valley functions as both an air



*Building is set in place to hold air monitoring equipment.*



*Acoustic sources sit nearby awaiting to be assembled as part of the lower air profiler.*

quality monitor and weather station. The additional meteorological equipment also will benefit the airport.

The new station replaces older equipment previously housed in a mobile unit that sat unprotected in a field in the community of Mountain House. The previous site, a large, yellow van, affectionately known by staff members as ‘Big Bird,’ originally was set in place to monitor transported air pollution from the Bay Area.

However, plans for a multi-functional monitoring station, combined with concerns over repeated vandalism, forced ‘Big Bird’ into retirement.

The new site is targeted for operation on Aug. 1.

## Retiring those gas-burning polluters

Customers lined up as early as 4 a.m. to ensure their place in line for Clean Green Yard Machines 2005, the Air District’s lawn mower incentive program. Now in its fourth year, the

program is designed to retire old gasoline-powered mowers, which represent a significant source of ozone precursors, in favor of non-polluting electric mowers.

This year, residents were invited to trade in their old mowers at Home Depot locations in Modesto, Fresno and Bakersfield. In exchange, they received a new electric mower for only \$100.

The events were held on May 14, May 15 and June 11. A total of 595 Valley residents retired their gas-powered mowers for the

*Participants in Bakersfield pick up their new, non-polluting mowers.*



discounted electric mowers, resulting in a reduction of 3,332 pounds of smog-forming emissions every year Valley-wide.

*Air District staff, Ron Giannone and Felix Trujillo loaded 240 gas mowers into bins that were later hauled away and the metal recycled, by Modesto Junk Company.*

