



# Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

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**September 19-25 is Pollution Prevention Week!**

## Air basin closes in on federal particulate standard *District's PM10 rules crucial in achieving success*

For the first time since passage of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, the San Joaquin Valley air basin is close to meeting the federal standard for airborne particulate matter that is 10 microns and smaller, or PM10.

In order to meet the standard, the Valley Air District must provide three years of data showing that PM10 concentrations did not exceed 24-hour and annual caps. If PM10 concentrations remain low through the rest of 2005, the air basin will have met those requirements.

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*Syed Sadedrin, deputy director, Valley Air District.*

Sadredin cautions, however, that this year's PM10 season is just beginning. Particulates are a problem mostly during the fall and winter months.

Farmers, builders and the general public can help keep PM10 levels low by complying with both mandatory and voluntary emission-reduction programs.

In particular, more than 6,000 of the Valley's larger farms have been reducing dust emissions since July 2004 by implementing Conservation Management Practices (CMP) plans.

The CMPs are estimated to reduce particulate emissions by 34 tons per day, Valley-wide.

Also, builders, contractors, farmers and anyone involved with earth-moving processes, demolition and construction, bulk material handling and storage, unpaved traffic areas and other common sources of fugitive dust are required to control emissions under the Air District's Regulation VIII. This group of rules is estimated to eliminate nearly 19 tons per day of particulate emissions.

PM10 includes smoke, soot, flyash, dust, tiny droplets of liquid and chemicals, that can bypass the body's natural defenses and lodge deep in the lungs.

Exposure to PM10 can trigger heart attacks, increase the risk of lung cancer, aggravate conditions such

as asthma and bronchitis, and reduce lung function.

Ozone, the primary ingredient of smog, is the other serious pollutant in the Valley and is a problem mostly during summer months.

Monitoring stations in the Valley recorded exceedances of the federal daily PM10 limit on more than 55 days in 1990. An exceedance is logged when PM10 concentrations are higher than the limit. The number of Valley-wide exceedances had dropped to 12 days by 2001 and just under eight days in 2002. No exceedances have been recorded since 2002.

Meeting the federal PM10 standard does not indicate regulations can be relaxed or that public cooperation is no longer needed.

"While it's gratifying to see dividends from our efforts to date, the hard work is not over," Sadredin said. "In light of a growing population, the air basin will continually need to control emissions to keep particulate levels low. The work also must continue to meet new, more demanding air-quality standards for both ozone and particulates."

"This is a significant achievement for the San Joaquin Valley," said Syed Sadredin, deputy director of the Valley Air District. "The improvements are proof positive that the Air District's control programs are working. Moreover, the air basin is reaping the benefits of the resolute and courageous actions of the District's governing board, substantial investment by Valley businesses, and the general public's participation and cooperation."

