



Valley Air News

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Spring | 2005

Dairy advisory group formed

An advisory group addressing air-quality permits for dairies began meeting in January. The group is assisting the Air District in determining emissions from dairies and in identifying the best air pollution controls for new dairies.

The 12-member Dairy Permitting Advisory Group (DPAG) includes representatives from the dairy industry, the Air District, local community and environmental group representatives and scientific experts. The group was formed last September as part of a lawsuit settlement between the Air District and two dairy industry groups.

“This is a very knowledgeable group with regard to dairies and air-quality issues, and we believe its members are committed to working cooperatively to address these pressing issues,” said Dave Warner, the Air District’s director of permits.

In May 2004, two key dairy industry groups sued the Air District over the District’s interpretation of the implementation timetable of SB700. This landmark

state legislation removed permitting exemptions from agricultural operations, including the multi-billion dollar San Joaquin Valley dairy industry.

According to the settlement agreement, the group must make recommendations to the Air District by April 15, 2005 on an emission factor for volatile organic compounds (VOC's). VOC's are one of the components of smog and contribute to Valley's summertime air quality problem. This factor quantifies the amount of pollution produced by a dairy and determines the levels at which permits are needed. Several scientific studies are currently being concluded and each is being critically examined by the DPAG.

DPAG will also make recommendations regarding Best Available Control Technologies that new dairies will be required to put into place to minimize air pollution.

DPAG will meet on a regular basis in the coming months to address these issues.



Mark your calendar

- **May 9 - Earth Day Celebration** by Mercy Medical Center Merced's Green Team. Fair takes place at the hospital's Community Campus, 301 E. 13th St. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **May 11-12 - Great Valley Center 8th Annual Conference**, Growing A Community, Radisson Hotel, Sacramento.



- **May 21-22 - Heartland Festival**, a celebration of food, farming and healthy living in the San Joaquin Valley, Double T Acres, Stevinson.
- **June 7 - Spare the Air kick off day**. The Spare the Air season lasts through September 30.



- **May 14 - Asthma Fair 2005**, in celebration of Asthma Awareness month, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock.
- **May 14, 15 & June 11 - Clean Green Yard Machines**, Air District lawn mower program event (See page 2 for details).
- **May 19 - Bike to Work Day**, downtown Modesto, 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- **May 20 - Bike to Work Day**, Manchester Mall parking lot, Fresno, 8:30 a.m.





Announcing Clean Green Yard Machines 2005



The lawn mower trade-in program is back by popular demand!

Bring in your old gas mower for disposal and get a new electric mower regularly priced at \$229.99 for \$100. That's less than half the regular price !

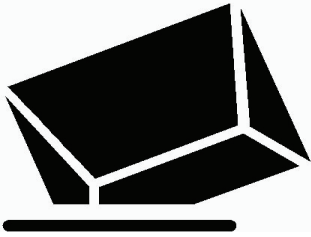
- Limited offer good only while supplies last
- Offer good only during specified dates & times at locations below
- Oil and gas must be drained before your mower can be accepted
- Mower offered is a Black & Decker MM875 with rear bag
- Customer pays sales tax

EVENT TIMES AND LOCATIONS - EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE PARKING LOTS OF THE FOLLOWING HOME DEPOT STORES:

- SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 1617 N. CARPENTER RD., MODESTO, 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
- SUNDAY, MAY 15TH, 7150 N. ABBEY ST., FRESNO, 9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
- SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2655 MT. VERNON AVE., BAKERSFIELD, 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

The Valley Air District thanks the following partners for making this event possible:





Reader Survey

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How do you feel about a monthly single-page version of the Valley Air News mailed to you electronically?

Good OK, but not my first choice Disapprove

If you would like to receive the Valley Air News by e-mail, please include your e-mail address here: _____.

Once you've completed this form, please fold it where indicated, tape it closed and mail it back to the Air District. Postage is not necessary. You can also e-mail your responses to anthony.presto@valleyair.org. Please return your response to us by May 31, 2005.

Thank you for your input,
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San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District



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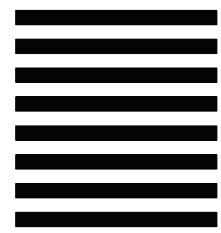


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Air Quality Flag Program Launched in Valley Schools

The Valley Air District and American Lung Association of Central California kicked off an air-quality education and notification program at Edison-Bethune Charter Academy in Fresno on February 16.

The Air Quality Flag Program, to be launched in 53 schools in five Valley counties (Fresno, Madera, Kings, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus), is modeled on existing programs in Kern, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties.



From left: Lannika Lek, Jesse Plata (and Mom Mrs. Paz), Michael Mendoza, Decovan Herb (and Mom Mrs. Clark) display all four air quality flags at the Flag Program kick off in Fresno.

Participating schools receive a set of four flags in colors that correspond to the health categories of the Air Quality Index: green for “good” air quality, yellow for “moderate,” orange for “unhealthy for sensitive groups” and red for “unhealthy.” The schools also receive daily air-quality forecasts, indicating which flag should be flown the following day. The Air

District and Lung Association are sponsoring the project at no cost to schools.

The program is designed to educate students, parents and faculty about the seasonal aspects of air pollution, its health impacts, and the appropriate steps that should be taken based on the AQI and an individual’s health. The goal of the program is to protect students from air pollution and improve their health.

“We are excited to fill a vital need in the San Joaquin Valley by offering educators, students and parents a comprehensive air-quality education and notification program at no cost to schools,” said Susie Rico, air quality flag program coordinator for the Lung Association.

Schools interested in the program can contact Susie Rico with the American Lung Association at (559)222-4800.



Josette Merced Bello, CEO of the American Lung Association of Central California, and Janelle Schneider, public education representative for the Air District, display the yellow flag indicating that air quality for the day is “moderate.”

Board Meeting Highlights

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

February

- The Board adopted amendments to Rule 4101, which limits visible emissions from operations and equipment. The amendments removed the exemption for agricultural operations and added specific language for three source operations that are otherwise exempt under state law.

- The Board adopted new Rule 4204 (Cotton Gins). The rule addresses particulate matter (PM10) emission controls for cotton ginning operations and requires replacement of older controls with more efficient equipment designs and the installation of wind barriers at key locations in the gin.

March

- The Board adopted the REMOVE II program. The program is designed to provide funding for projects that reduce vehicle emissions. Components of the program include:

- a. E-Mobility (Telecommunications)
- b. Bicycle Infrastructure
- c. Public Transportation & Commuter Vanpool Passenger Subsidy
- d. Alternative Fuel Mechanic Training
- e. Light and Medium-Duty Vehicle
- f. Light-Duty Vehicle Retirement

Meeting Schedule

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for May 19. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held at 9 a.m. in the Central Region Office, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, (559) 230-6000.

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

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