



# VALLEY AIR NEWS

## Ozone plan seeks fastest clean-up possible

The Air District released its final draft of the 2007 Ozone Plan on January 29, stating that it would clean the Valley's air as expeditiously as possible.

In a press conference announcing release of the plan, Air Pollution Control Officer, Seyed Sadredin, reviewed the Air District's strategy for reaching attainment of the federal eight-hour ozone standard.

"It will not happen overnight and it will not be cheap," said Sadredin, explaining that it would be physically impossible to reach the original deadline of 2012 for the new standard that limits ozone concentrations averaged over eight-hour periods. The District is requesting that the Environmental Protection agency extend the deadline to 2023 and that the Valley's ozone classification be changed from "Serious" to "Extreme."

"No stone will be left unturned," Sadredin said, adding that the District will strengthen existing rules to reduce air pollution wherever possible, adopt additional rules and solicit millions of dollars annually to fund incentives where the Air District cannot mandate reductions.

The plan details how the Air District will bring the entire Valley into attainment with the federal health-based standard as early as possible. By 2020 more than 90 percent of Valley residents will be living in areas that reach attainment status for ozone. Yet, due to Valley topography and meteorology, the areas east of Arvin and northwest Fresno will take longer to reach attainment.

Approximately 60 percent of Valley air pollution comes from motor vehicles, which the Air District does not regulate. Therefore, additional assistance is required at the state and federal levels to achieve air-quality goals.

Specific measures in the plan include:

- New state and federal standards for tail-pipe emissions from cars, trucks, and locomotives;
- Local rules requiring employee trip reduction, which would require employers of

a certain size to establish carpool and alternative transportation programs for their employees;

- Further local regulations on industrial, commercial and agricultural operation; and
- Public funding to help the private sector pay for replacing and retrofitting high-polluting engines.

The plan must be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by June 15.



Lower air profiler at Tracy monitoring site.

## New Air Monitoring Projects Completed

In January, the Air District completed its Tracy monitoring site by installing a lower air profiler and began receiving data from a new monitoring site in Huron.

The District selected Huron as the site of the new PM2.5 monitor after surveying possible sites on the Valley's west side. The new site addresses recent state legislation to install fine-particulate monitors in under-served, low-income areas in western Fresno County.

The profiler, installed at the Tracy Airport, is a Doppler radar system used to track weather patterns. The difference is in the direction the profiler is aimed. While weather radar systems are pointed at the horizon, the profiler is aimed at the sky, measuring wind speed, direction and temperature as far as two-and-a-half miles, straight up.

These facilities will aid the Air District in forecasting air quality and track the direction air pollution moves in the San Joaquin Valley.

## Stoves crushed to kick off Burn Cleaner Program

The Air District showed members of the press and public just where old, dirty, wood-burning stoves and inserts belong when it held press conferences at local recycling centers January 29-30 to kick off the Burn Cleaner Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out Program.

Through the program, sponsored by Operation Clean Air and the Valley Air District, residents in the eight-county Air District can apply for vouchers to be used toward the purchase of cleaner woodstoves and fireplace inserts.

The program started Feb. 1 and applications for vouchers will be accepted until March 15, or until funds are expended, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Particulate pollution from older woodstoves and inserts is a significant contributor to wintertime air pollution in the Valley. Officials with both organizations project the cash incentive – ranging from \$25 for a set of gas logs to a total of \$800 for propane stoves or inserts – will motivate people who have been considering upgrading their stove or insert to make a change.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a full-time resident of the Valley air basin and the project must be located within the air basin (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties). Application forms and supporting materials are available at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) and District offices.



Wood-burning inserts being destroyed during press conference at Modesto Junk Company.