

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

## Air District, OCA kick off woodstove change-out

### Old stoves for new stoves in cash incentive program

Through the Burn Cleaner Fireplace and Woodstove Change-out 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 natural gas or propane woodstoves and fireplace inserts.

The program starts Feb. 4 and applications for vouchers will be accepted until April 30, 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 - \$350 for natural gas or propane stove or insert - will motivate people who have been considering upgrading their stove or insert to make a change.

"These devices can be very expensive so we hope that this program will encourage people to make the investment in a cleaner, lower-polluting model," said Jaime Holt, Chief Communications Officer for the Air District. "Our Valley skies will certainly benefit from it."

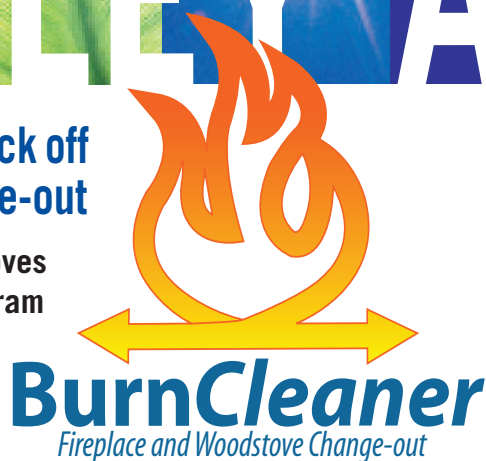
"OCA is committed to seeing clean air in the San Joaquin Valley, and this program is a great way for Valley residents to get involved," said Hal Bolen, chairman of Operation Clean Air.

A total of \$108,000 is available to fund about 300 projects.

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 portions of Kern counties). Application forms and supporting materials will be available at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) and all District offices beginning Feb. 4.

Vouchers may be used at one of several participating retailers, who will oversee installation of the new device and will confirm the old device was replaced or removed and destroyed.

The \$350 incentive is available for any resident upgrading from a wood or pellet device (including an open hearth wood burning fireplace) to a natural gas or propane stove or insert.



## District unveils PM2.5 plan

In December, the Air District released the first draft of its 2008 PM2.5 Attainment Plan, designed to reach federal attainment standards for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns and smaller (PM2.5) by 2014.

Informational workshops seeking public comments on the plan were held Dec. 18-19. A final workshop is scheduled for early February 2008, before bringing the plan to the District's Governing Board in April.

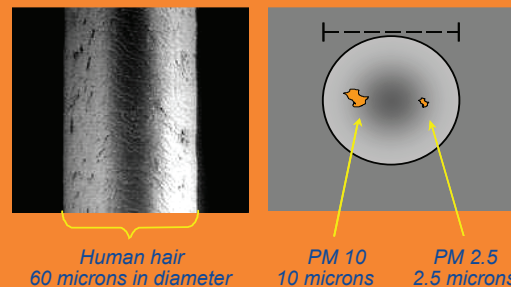
The plan is due to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April 2008.

In addition to more stringent rules reducing directly-emitted particulate matter, the District is also using many of the aggressive strategies from the 2007 Ozone Plan which focus on reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) as part of the PM2.5 plan. Cutting-edge scientific research shows these pollutants to be precursors to PM2.5, and reducing their emissions to be an effective method of also reducing PM2.5.

Aspects of the plan include:

- Tighter restrictions on residential wood burning;
- More stringent limits on PM 2.5, NOx and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from industrial sources;
- Additional restrictions on prescribed and agricultural burning; and
- More effective work practices to control fugitive dust.

Diagram shows the size of particulate matter in relation to a human hair.



Particulate matter can be made up of smoke, dust, soot, sulfates, nitrates, carbons, trace metals and fine droplets of liquid.

The small size of PM2.5 allows it to settle deep in the lungs, and can sometimes travel into the blood stream. It has been linked to a variety of serious health issues, such as aggravated asthma, irritation of the airways, coughing, difficulty breathing, decreased lung function, development of chronic bronchitis, increased risk of heart attack to those with heart disease and premature death.

The San Joaquin Valley is currently classified by the EPA as a nonattainment area for PM2.5.

The draft PM2.5 Attainment Plan is available to the public on the District's website at [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).