



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution Control District

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**Project Proponent:** San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

**Address/Location:** 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726

**Contact Person:** Renee DeVere, Air Quality Specialist (559) 230-5800

**Project Name:** San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District Draft Rule 4550  
(Conservation Management Practices)

**Description of Project:**

The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) is classified as a serious nonattainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter (PM) with a diameter less than ten microns (PM10). The federal Clean Air Act requires areas designated as serious nonattainment for PM10 to implement Best Available Control Measure (BACM) and Best Available Control Technology (BACT) on all significant sources of emissions. In addition, due to the failure by the SJVAB to attain the NAAQS PM10 standard by 2001, the District is required to show a five percent per year reduction in PM10 or PM10 precursors emissions starting in 2003 until attainment is reached. The District is also required to demonstrate attainment of the NAAQS PM10 standards at the earliest possible date.

The 2003 PM10 Plan identified agricultural operation sites as significant sources of emissions and a source for PM10 emissions reduction. Agricultural sources are defined as any activity or portion of land associated with the commercial growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals. Draft Rule 4550 (Conservation Management Practices) is part of the District's PM attainment strategy. Draft Rule 4550 requires owner/operators of agricultural operations to implement conservation management practices (CMP) to reduce PM10 emissions. The reductions will help meet the five percent per year reduction in PM10 emissions and help demonstrate attainment of annual and 24-hour PM10 standards. The 2003 PM10 Plan contains a commitment to implement the CMP Program by July 2004. This program will be implemented throughout the eight-county SJVAB (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and a portion of Kern County).

The Draft Rule 4550 is scheduled for consideration by the District Governing Board on May 20, 2004. The final version of the rule will include corrections and changes in response to some of the public comments received during the rule development process.

**Reasons for Negative Declaration:**

The Initial Study (attached) has not identified any significant adverse environmental impacts that may occur because of the project. This program will reduce directly emitted PM10 generally by modifying agricultural practices, which is not anticipated to result in significant adverse effects.

***Copies of the Negative Declaration and supporting documentation relating to the subject project may be examined by interested parties at the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's Central Region Office (headquarters), at the Northern Region Office, or at the Southern Region Office.***

Proposed Negative Declaration Date: March 31, 2004  
Final Negative Declaration Date: April 29, 2004

Air Pollution Control Officer  
San Joaquin Valley Unified APCD