

News Release

For immediate release

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For: Local News, Health and
Weather sections



Northern Media Contact- Modesto

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472

Central District Media Contact - Fresno

Jaime Holt (559) 230-5850

Southern District Media Contact - Bakersfield

Brenda Turner (661) 392-5581

Spanish language Media Contact

Ana Reyes (559) 230-5851

Tune In, Tune Up wins state environmental award ***Coalition bestows prestigious Pat Brown Award on District***

A respected, statewide, nonpartisan business and labor coalition has awarded the Valley Air District with the 2012 Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Award for its innovation in collaboration and public-private partnerships for the Tune In, Tune Up car testing and repair program.

Skip Barwick, District Governing Board vice-chair and vice-mayor of Tulare, and Air District Executive Director Seyed Sadredin accepted the award on behalf of the District and its Tune In, Tune Up partner, Valley Clean Air Now, from the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB). The award was presented by state Sen. Michael Rubio, who noted the Valley's air-quality challenges and praised programs, such as Tune In, Tune Up, that promote public-private partnerships to achieve cost-effective emission reductions.

"We are deeply honored by this outstanding recognition, and extend our appreciation to Valley Clean Air Now," Sadredin said. "This program is critical in addressing gross-polluting vehicle emissions, and was designed to serve and assist the most needy and economically disadvantaged residents of San Joaquin Valley."

"It is gratifying to the Air District to be able to remove some of the economic hardship from the lives of Valley residents and help them make clean-air changes, and to be recognized for doing so by such a respected organization," Barwick said.

Tune In, Tune Up provides free emissions testing and repair assistance to thousands of Valley residents annually. Within the past year, 15 events servicing about 5,000 vehicles have been held Valley-wide, resulting in nearly 3,000 repair vouchers issued for up to \$500 each. The District's Governing Board recently authorized \$4 million for the program to hold even more events and increase voucher amounts to up to \$650 each.

To participate, Valley residents bring their vehicles to any Tune In, Tune Up event, where emissions are tested and vehicles assessed for the likelihood of passing an actual smog test. If the determination is made that the vehicle would likely fail a smog test, a voucher is issued, which the vehicle owner can then take to an authorized repair shop. Events are held throughout the Valley year-round.

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When repairs are completed for eligible vehicles, each event removes 150 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from the air basin annually, as well as 3,000 tons of carbon monoxide and 300 tons of hydrocarbons. NOx is the main ingredient in ozone, for which the Valley exceeds health-based standards. Vehicles account for 80 percent of the air basin's pollution.

In awarding the District, CCEEB President Jerry Secundy noted the program "achieves some of the most cost-effective mobile source emissions reductions anywhere in the state" and exemplifies environmental-economic balance.

CCEEB was founded in 1973 by late Governor Edmund G. "Pat" Brown to address environmental issues in California through labor and business collaboration.

For more information about Tune In, Tune Up, call the District's offices in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).