

News Release

For immediate release

4-30-13

Attn: Local news, health, business
& assignment editors



Northern region - Modesto

Anthony Presto (209) 557-6472

Central region – Fresno

Heather Heinks (559) 230-5898

Southern region – Bakersfield

Jaime Holt (661) 381-1809

Spanish-language contact

Ana Reyes (559) 230-5851

After hours

(559)284-6317

2012-13 Annual Report now available

Free publication details air-quality progress, trends, strategies

Steady air-quality improvement, new end-user technologies and details about critical air-cleanup plans and regulations in development are among the topics included in the Valley Air District's new 2012-13 Annual Report to the Community.

The annual publication is produced by the District to convey important information about the Valley air basin's progress toward attaining health-based air-quality standards. The 46-page, full-color report is free to the public.

"Our annual report is one of the most popular, and most important, publications we produce, and a valuable way of communicating the complexity of the air basin's issues in an easily understandable, visually attractive format," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer.

The report includes progress recaps of the past 12 months and details successes in reducing levels of pollutants in the Valley's air. Among the information in the 2012-13 issue:

- Exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard continue to decline, from more than 50 in 2002 to just two in 2012.
- Ozone (smog) exceedances for the 1997 and 2008 8-hour standard have dropped by 55 percent and 34 percent, respectively, since 1992, the year the District formed.
- The District's grants program continues to expand. In 2012, the District awarded about \$100 million in grants and incentives to every sector of the Valley.

Also in 2012, the District adopted a stringent, new plan for cleaning up PM2.5 which incorporates a "risk-based" strategy (prioritizing clean-up strategies according to achieving the greatest health benefits).

The 2012-13 Annual Report to the Community also contains updates and information on public health campaigns such as Healthy Air Living Schools; the introduction of smart-phone applications for immediate data access; new air-pollution research and its implications for the Valley; and District operations statistics.

The report is available online at <http://www.valleyair.org/2012-13AnnualReport.pdf>. To request a hard copy, call a District office at 559-230-6000 (Fresno), 209-557-6400 (Modesto) or 661-392-5500 (Bakersfield), or email public.education@valleyair.org.