

# News Release

06/16/05  
For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

**Attn: Local news, business and  
assignment editors**

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## **Air District Adopts Major Emission Limits for Ag Engines**

Irrigation pumps were the topic of a major new regulation adopted by the governing board of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District at its June 16 meeting.

The board adopted major amendments to the existing Rule 4702 (Internal Combustion Engines, Phase 2) that set strict new emission limits for more than 4,500 existing diesel engines and 900 natural gas-fired engines, primarily used to power agricultural irrigation water pumps.

“This is one of the most significant rules the Air District as adopted in the past few years”, stated Seyed Sadredin, the District’s Deputy APCO. “The number of sources affected, the costs involved and the emissions reduced are substantial.”

This equipment was exempt until 2004, when new state laws took effect. The new limits are expected to remove 24.3 tons of nitrogen oxides per day Valley-wide. Nitrogen oxides form ozone (smog), the primary pollutant that creates unhealthy air conditions during the hot Valley summers.

District grant programs, such as the Heavy Duty Incentive Program, will be used to mitigate the cost of this rule. The board reiterated its commitment to provide financial assistance for stakeholders to comply with rules such as these.

In other action:

- To comply with a state law addressing particulate (PM) pollution, the board also adopted a Particulate Matter Control Measure Implementation Schedule. Senate Bill 656 requires air districts adopt 103 PM control measures from a listed provided by the state Air Resources Board (ARB). Of the 103 possible control measures, 37 were cited as existing Air District rules, 39 were similar to measures already adopted by the District, 13 are planned for adoption in the next two years, and 13 represent sources not found in the District. Due to the District’s strong history of leadership in the control of PM and the adoption of many rules that have become models for the rest of the state, the District’s schedule contains only one measure, District Rule 4621 (Gasoline Transfer into Stationary Storage Containers, Delivery Vessels, and Bulk Plants).

- The Air District board recognized the City of Fresno for receiving a prestigious national award for its efforts to improve air quality by investing in a clean-air fleet. The city

received the U.S. Department of Energy's City Fleet of the Year award as part of the 2005 Clean Cities National Partner Awards program for changing out diesel transit buses, trolleys and other high-polluting vehicles with cleaner alternatives such as hybrid and liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles, as well as other clean-air efforts.

The city recently built and opened an LNG fueling station and replaced 69 refuse-hauling diesel trucks with LNG-fueled trucks, which produce 40 percent less nitrogen oxides and 85 percent less particulate matter emissions. The remainder of the fleet was upgraded with special filters to reduce emissions. The Valley Air District provided about \$1.9 million in grants to assist with these projects.

- The District's was recognized for receiving an "Air Monitoring Award of Excellence" from the ARB. The award covers work from 2001 to 2003 and recognizes that the air district achieved high ratings for precision, accuracy and data completeness for all three years. The District has 16 air-monitoring sites in eight counties and is constructing a new monitoring station in Tracy, which will begin operating later this summer. The District monitors ozone, PM and other pollutants, 24 hour a day, seven days a week.

The Air District's governing board will not meet in July. It will resume its monthly meeting schedule at 9 a.m. on Aug. 18.

Despite years of air-quality improvements, the San Joaquin Valley air basin fails to meet federal and state health-based air pollution standards and must reduce pollution within the District's eight counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern. For more information, visit [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org) or call the nearest District office: Modesto (209) 557-6400, Fresno (559) 230-6000 and Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.

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