

# News Release

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For Immediate Release



San Joaquin Valley  
Air Pollution  
Control District

**TO:**  
**Local News sections**

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## **New rule would reduce development emissions** ***Public workshop set for Thursday***

*(Fresno, CA)* – A proposed rule to reduce air pollution emissions by more than 10 tons per day from new developments in the San Joaquin Valley will undergo a public workshop this week.

The Valley Air District's proposed Rule 9510, Decreasing Emissions' Significant Impact from Growth and New Development (DESIGN), would require developers of new projects – including residential, commercial and industrial -- to reduce air-pollution emissions to 50 percent of their baseline. If adopted, the rule would reduce smog-forming and particulate emissions by 10.5 combined tons per day by 2010.

New developments increase air pollution by prompting more vehicle trips and creating more pollution-causing activities such as landscape maintenance, fuel combustion and use of consumer products, as well as creating emissions during construction. Each day, nearly 94 million vehicle miles are traveled on Valley roads and that number is expected to increase as the Valley grows.

Despite years of improved air quality in the San Joaquin Valley, the air basin still fails to meet federal health-based standards. Therefore, the Air District is required by federal law to consider stringent control measures to reduce air pollution emissions.

The new rule would apply to developments expected to create at least two tons per year of air pollution emissions, or developments of: 50 or more residential units; 2,000 square feet of commercial space; 10,000 square feet of government space; 20,000 feet of medical space; 25,000 square feet of industrial or educational space; or 50,000 square feet of general office space.

Developers would be encouraged to reduce as many emissions as possible through on-site mitigation, such as making the developments bicycle- and walker-friendly; designing energy-efficient buildings; incorporating mass transit; offering telecommuting and video-conferencing; and other measures.

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If projected emissions still exceeded 50 percent of its baseline, a project's developer would be required to purchase off-site emission reductions to make up the difference. The off-site emission reductions would be purchased through the Air District's incentive programs that fund projects such as upgrading fleets to low-emission vehicles, e-mobility, bicycle infrastructure, public transportation subsidies and a planned vehicle-scraping program.

The public is invited to attend the workshop, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Air District's Fresno office at 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave. The meeting also will be video-conferenced to the District's regional offices in Bakersfield at 2700 M St., Suite 275, and in Modesto at 4230 Kiernan Ave.

For more information or a copy of the draft rule, 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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