

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY UNIFIED AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT NOTICE OF CANCELATION OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Modesto Bee and Merced Sun-Star, Monday, August 27, 2012

ON THE Draft 2012 PM2.5 Plan NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the public workshop to discuss and receive comments on the draft 2012 PM2.5 Plan for attainment of the 2006 PM2.5 federal air quality standard in the San Joaquin Valley scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at 9:30 AM has been cancelled and will be rescheduled to a later date. Stakeholders are encouraged to continue providing feedback to the District. Plan related documents are available for public review at: http://www.valleyair.org/Air_Quality_Plans/PM_Plans.htm. You can receive District news, workshop notices, and other important information via email by subscribing to one of the District's email notification lists at www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm. The email notification lists are set up and maintained by the end users and not by District staff. Individuals may add or delete their names from these lists at any time. If you need assistance obtaining an electronic or paper copy of the draft plan materials, please call Mr. Donny Hockett at (559) 230-6000 or fax your request to (559) 230-6064. Comments or questions should be addressed to Mrs. Anna Myers at SJVUAPCD, 1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726 or via email at anna.myers@valleyair.org.

Agency demonstrating cordless garden equipment

Joshua Emerson Smith, staff writer
Merced Sun-Star, Saturday, August 25, 2012

MERCED -- The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District recently rolled out its latest incentive program to meet federal environmental standards with an electric lawn and garden equipment demonstration for commercial landscapers.

Qualifying companies will be able to test out battery-powered equipment, including cordless lawnmowers, sweepers, blowers, chainsaws and trimmers.

The air district is accepting applications for the equipment-testing program through Sept. 20 from non-residential lawn-care businesses in the Valley, including larger companies and public entities that do their own landscaping.

"Through everyday use of this cutting-edge equipment, companies will be able to evaluate its performance," said Seyed Sadredin, Valley Air District executive director. "We hope this study will accelerate acceptance of clean-air equipment and build upon the progress already made in the residential sector."

The program is one of about a dozen incentive programs the Air District is offering in an attempt to meet federal environmental protection standards for ozone pollution. Ozone is a corrosive gas that can cause lung damage.

Over the years, the San Joaquin Valley has improved its air quality through incentive programs, regulatory measures and voluntary initiatives.

While the Valley had six violations of the one-hour ozone standards in 2011, that figure is down from 10 violations recorded in 2010 and the 56 violations in 1996.

However, further progress is needed to come into federal compliance, said Anthony Presto, spokesman for the Valley Air District.

"It's really important that when an air alert does occur that residents in the Valley cooperate in doing everything they can to reduce emissions," he said. "We cannot meet these standards on rules and regulations alone."

In 2010, the Valley was fined \$29 million by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violating the one-hour ozone standard, money that's been mostly collected from Valley drivers in the form of a \$12 vehicle registration fee and used to fund air quality improvement programs.

To avoid that fine, the Valley Air District cannot register more than three violations at any one of the 33 air quality monitors located between San Joaquin and Kern counties over a three-year period.

Meeting that standard for ozone has been a significant challenge, officials said. In 2011, there were three violations at a monitor site in Fresno. This year, that monitoring site in Fresno has recorded two violations.

Applications for the equipment-testing program are available at valleyair.org. For more information, call (559) 230-5800.