

Valley air district urges residents to cut back on driving

By Eryn Baldrice-Guy

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Valley air district officials are urging residents to reduce their driving and other emission-producing activities this week due to unseasonably high temperatures.

Officials with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District cautioned that the heat and stagnant conditions may lead to elevated ozone levels. Despite wildfires and sweltering temperatures all summer, this year has proven to be a year of historically low ozone levels for the Valley, officials said.

If the trend continues, 2014 will become the second consecutive year in which the Valley has not had a violation of the one-hour ozone standard, allowing the Environmental Protection Agency to lift the Valley's \$29 million penalty under the Clean Air Act.

Valley residents can reduce emissions by carpooling, walking or biking to school, using public transportation, and by turning off their cars when dropping off or picking up students.