

13 electric vehicle charging stations will open in Fresno County

By Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado
Fresno Bee, Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Thirteen free electric-vehicle charging stations will soon be open for the public to use in Fresno County.

The transportable charging stations will be available in 13 Fresno County cities, 12 of which are considered “disadvantaged” communities. The latest launch of electric charging stations does not include any in Fresno.

A kickoff event at 10 a.m. at the Fresno County Library in Fowler, 306 S. Seventh St., on Wednesday will mark the largest deployment of such stations in the San Joaquin Valley.

It is a cooperative effort among CALSTART, the Valley Air District, Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, the California Energy Commission, Caltrans and Envision Solar. The stations will be powered by solar energy, making for an emission-free experience.

Forest plans control burns

Porterville Recorder, Wednesday, May 24, 2017

SPRINGVILLE — Sequoia National Forest personnel are planning to conduct control burns on the Western Divide Ranger District in the Giant Sequoia National Monument this week.

Control burns, also known as prescribed burning, are fires managed to improve forest health.

Following the wet winter, fuel conditions in the area are favorable for prescribed burning, and fire crews are available to conduct the burns. The amount of daily acreage burned will be dependent on weather conditions and smoke dispersal. Prescribed fires may continue through June.

The following project areas on Forest Service lands are targeted to burn:

t Ponderosa — 600 acres of hand piles and understory burning

t Tule River Reservation Protection Project — 400 acres of hand piles and understory burning near Solo Peak and the Black Mountain Giant Sequoia Grove

Most of these areas consist of scattered piles of small trees, brush, and limbs created from community wildfire protection projects. The projects will help protect the communities by reducing the risk of high-intensity wildfires.

When the burning is completed, the burn piles themselves may not be entirely consumed in the fire. Typically there are remnants of the piles left to protect the soil from erosion and promote the growth of new vegetation. Some piles will be intentionally left unburned to benefit wildlife.

Smoke from the prescribed burning operations will be visible from Ponderosa, Camp Nelson, and likely the communities around Springville and Porterville. Fire managers strive to minimize smoke impacts to the community as much as possible. Forest personnel will be working closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to manage smoke production and reduce any local impacts.

Control burns are an essential tool for restoring forest health in a fire adapted ecosystem, said the forest service. Fire is a natural and essential process that cannot be replaced by any mechanical means.