

VALLEY AIR NEWS

2007 ozone plan is most ambitious ever

The Valley Air District released its draft plan in October to further reduce smog-forming emissions and help the Valley air basin meet a new, federal air-quality standard.

The draft "2007 Ozone Plan" is designed to reduce emissions that create ozone, the main ingredient of smog. The new, federal, health-based standard sets limits on ozone concentrations averaged over eight-hour periods. The old standard averaged concentrations over a one-hour period. The plan will undergo several months of public review and discussion prior to being presented to the District's governing board in spring 2007 for their approval.

"This is the most far-reaching and comprehensive plan ever developed by the Air District," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's executive director and air pollution control officer. "We look forward to a robust dialogue with all interested parties over the course of the next few months, as we finalize these clean-air strategies."

The 350-plus-page plan, which is posted on the Air District's website at www.valleyair.org, provides an ambitious list of regulatory and voluntary measures to reduce smog-forming emissions. Some of the measures are under the jurisdiction of the Air District, while some are the responsibility of local, state and federal governments. The plan calls for:

- Regulations to further reduce smog-forming emissions from industrial, commercial, and agricultural operations;
- New state and federal standards for tailpipe emissions from mobile sources, such as cars, trucks, and locomotives;
- Local regulations and voluntary measures to reduce or offset emissions from mobile sources;
- Land-use decisions that reduce vehicle emissions associated with population

growth; and

- Public funding to help the private sector pay for replacing and retrofitting on-road and off-road engines.

"Due to the Valley's geography and meteorology, our challenge in meeting the new standard is unmatched by any other region in the nation," Sadredin said. "In developing this plan, we will leave no stone unturned. But we also fully appreciate that the Valley's economic vitality and prosperity are essential to having the resources necessary to achieve our public-health goals."

Under federal law, the District will have to select a deadline to meet the new smog standard: 2012, 2020, or 2023. According to the draft plan, meeting the 2012 deadline would require a total of \$7.5 billion dollars over the next five years, in addition to the regulatory measures already proposed in the plan. The 2020 and 2023 deadlines would require \$2.9 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively. Therefore, the plan calls for a significant increase in state and federal funding to help the Valley meet the ozone standard as quickly as possible.

Computer modeling shows that bringing the entire 25,000-square-mile Valley into compliance with the new smog standard would require a 60-percent reduction of emissions Valley-wide. However, all metropolitan areas of the Valley - representing about 90 percent of the Valley population - could meet the standard with only a 35-percent drop in emissions. The areas that would need more emission reductions are primarily in the Sierra Nevada mountains, as well as in the "downwind areas" and foothills of Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties.

"In developing this plan, we will leave no stone unturned."

*Seyed Sadredin,
Air Pollution
Control Officer*

Wood burning season Approaches Please Check BEFORE You Burn

With the wood burning season beginning on November 1, Valley residents are reminded that wood burning restrictions will be in place through February 28.

The Air District prohibits residential wood burning in fireplaces and wood and pellet stoves on days when air quality is forecast to be unhealthy.

Approximately 30 percent of wintertime particulate matter pollution (as much as 24 tons per day) comes from residential wood burning, but the Valley has shown marked improvement since wood burning rules went into affect in the fall of 2003.

Valley residents are asked to "Check BEFORE You Burn" by either calling the District's SMOG-INFO line at 1-800-766-4463 or going the District's website at www.valleyair.org to check the wood burning status before lighting a fire.

Below are the three stages to be aware of:



2006 San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Symposium

MISSION POSSIBLE

Charting the Forecast for Success

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Doubletree Hotel, Bakersfield

SAVE THE DATE!

For registration information, go to www.valleyair.org. For sponsorship information, contact Jaime Holt at 559-230-5850 or Sheri Bohigian at 559-230-5852.