

VALLEY AIR NEWS

District takes the Fast Track to cleaner air

On June 21, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District began its "Dual Path" strategy for cleaning the Valley's air to a level that meets federally-mandated clean-air standards years ahead of a federal deadline.



The Fast-Track Plan is designed to complement the District's 2007 Ozone Plan by using methods the District could not include as part of the plan being submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. However, the District is dedicated to achieving clean air standards as quickly as possible, and is using Fast-Track strategies in addition to those in the Ozone Plan.

"This plan will involve complex, ambitious, and long-term actions that likely will directly affect every resident in the Valley," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer.

The 2007 Ozone Plan sets a federal deadline of 2024 to reach air quality standards and meets federal legal obligations, shielding the Valley from costly federal sanctions.

Fast-Track relies on additional innovation and collaboration to reach air-quality goals years ahead of the federal timeline through three main components:

1. Works to ensure that state and federal agencies do more to reduce emissions by increased regulation of mobile sources, the largest culprit of smog in the Valley.
2. Seeks additional incentive funding of at least \$200 million per year to reduce emissions where the District has no regulatory authority.
3. Identifies and takes action on new and innovative ways to reduce emissions through different methods of doing business and transporting goods and people in the Valley.

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*Seyed Sadredin,
Air Pollution Control Officer*

Strategies within the Fast-Track Plan include "green" contracting; alternative energy and energy conservation; truck replacement and retrofit; and enhancing District educational and incentive programs.

The District's Governing Board directed District personnel to develop a dual path plan upon approval of the 2007 Ozone plan in April. Find out more about the Fast Track on the District's website, www.valleyair.org.



Seeking artists

The Air District is looking for young artists to participate its 2008 calendar contest. The 14 winners, from grades K-12, will have their drawings appear in the District's 2008 Clean Air Kids calendar.

Participants must submit their work by September 30, 2007 to qualify as a contestant. All school-aged children are invited to send in drawings depicting clean-air messages.

The original art by children from all over the San Joaquin Valley gives a young person's view of what the Valley's air should look like.

Every year, the educational wall calendar is distributed free to schools, churches, civic organizations, non-political groups and individuals, by request. Last year the District distributed 20,000 calendars Valley-wide.

To participate, send artwork on an 8 1/2 by 11-inch piece of paper, turned on its side to the landscape position. The artwork must be an original kid's drawing or painting in full color and demonstrate the importance of clean air.

Entries should include the artist's name, address, phone number, grade and school on the back.

Mail to: 2008 Calendar Contest, Valley Air District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726. For more information, visit the District's website at www.valleyair.org.

**Do Your Share,
Spare
Our Air.**

