



# VALLEY AIR NEWS

## Popularity grows for lawn mower program

Once again, the Air District's lawn mower trade-in program has been a resounding success. In fact, every year since 2003 proves more successful and more popular than the prior year.



This year, rather than the traditional one-day, trade-in event that has become the norm for air districts across the country, the San Joaquin Valley Air District sought a way to expand the program, making it more accessible to all Valley residents.

The Air District partnered with Vermont-based Neuton Lawn Mower Company, which sells mowers exclusively by mail order. Valley residents were offered the opportunity to take their lawn mowers directly to recycling companies in their own county, then order their new mower directly from the manufacturer, and have a new mower delivered to their door.

The response to this new program was overwhelming. Despite an initial six-week program window, voucher requests reached the limit of 1,000 within three days. A waiting list of 300 was filled by the end of the week.

As a result, this year's program reduced emissions by an additional 5,107 pounds per year.

There were no long lines as in previous years. Nor did participants have to travel outside their county, which also helped reduce vehicle emissions. Residents enjoyed the flexibility and leisure of turning in their mowers at any time that partnering recyclers were open and making their purchase by phone, prior to the end of May.

## Air District joins state in lawsuit

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District issued a letter last month advising the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its intent to join the State of California's lawsuit seeking to set its own vehicle emissions standards.

The District's Governing Board voted unanimously on June 21 to join the state action. It is the first local air district to do so.

"This is an issue of overriding importance to the Valley in reaching clean-air standards," said Seyed Sadredin, the District's Executive Director. "We share the Governor's sentiments on this critical issue and are fully committed to doing our part."

The lawsuit, initiated by Gov. Schwarzenegger, seeks a waiver of federal preemption for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission regulations for passenger cars, light-duty trucks and medium-duty passenger vehicles beginning with the 2009 model year.

Under the Federal Clean Air Act, California has the right to set its own vehicle emission standards, which other states then have the right to adopt as their own, after receiving a waiver from the EPA.

The District notified EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson of its intent in a letter dated June 26. In the Valley air basin, more than half of ozone-forming emissions are the result of vehicle use. However, the District has no legislative authority to regulate them.

"Despite significant progress in improving air quality ... the Valley faces a daunting challenge in meeting the new standards for ozone and particulates," the letter states. "Our support for California's request for the waiver is based on our belief that the proposed programs will not only help reduce GHG emissions, but that they are also essential to our efforts to meet health-based standards for criteria pollutants."

"Since mobile source emission control is largely under the authority of state and federal agencies, the SJVAPCD strongly supports new measures that reduce mobile source emissions."

In a June 13, 2007, letter to Johnson, Gov. Schwarzenegger asked the federal government to "act immediately on California's long-standing request for a federal preemption waiver for California's motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions standards waiver request."

## Do your share, Spare Our Air.

Everyone can make a difference by taking a few simple steps:

- Bring a lunch to work or "order in" with co-workers
- Combine errands into one trip
- Don't top off your gas tank
- Use electric lawn equipment
- BBQ w/propane, not charcoal



Clean Green Yard Machines is one of many District-sponsored programs that reduce emissions from pollution sources not within the Air District's regulatory authority, such as engines smaller than 50 horsepower. But, because engines such as gas-powered lawn mowers contribute a significant amount of pollution to Valley skies, the Clean Green Yard Machines program is a valuable tool in helping clean the Valley's air.

For more information on Clean Green Yard Machines, visit the Air District's website at: [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org).