

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - October/November 2009

## Healthy Air Living produces many winners throughout Valley

### For Reel Video Contest

Three Valley entries have won prizes for creativity and talent in the Air District's annual Healthy Air Living "For Reel" Video Contest.

For the second year, amateur videographers from throughout the Valley were invited to compete in the District contest to produce a 30-second video answering the question "How do you live a Healthy Air Life?"

The winning videos can be seen on the District's Healthy Air living website at: <http://www.healthyairliving.com/upcoming-events/for-reel-video-contest.htm> or the District's Face Book page.

The winners and their prizes are:

- Grand Prize winner: Brandon Brush, Modesto – iPod Shuffle
- 2nd Place winner: Drew Monson, Modesto – Two movie tickets
- 3rd Place winner: Ms. Scholl's class, McParland Elementary School, Manteca – Healthy Air Living T-shirts and Healthy Air Living balsawood gliders for each student.

### Commute Green in the San Joaquin Corporate Challenge

Reducing commuter emissions while having fun is the aim of this annual event. Vehicle use is a significant source of pollution and alternative transportation is one way to reduce those emissions.

Commute Green in the San Joaquin highlights alternative commute options by encouraging friendly competition among Valley businesses. Some eligible commute alternatives are using public transit, carpooling or vanpooling, walking and biking.

Participating organizations were rated on their participation for one week during the month of September.

Listed below are the winners and their categories:

- Fresno County -- highest participation rate in the "Large Organization" category.
- The Picc Crew at Piccadilly Inn University -- highest participation rate for a "Medium Organization" category
- The Administration Department for the City of Visalia (Green Team) -- highest participation rate in the "Small Organization" category.

### Commute Green in the San Joaquin Kids' Edition Challenge

Three schools and 1,384 students participated in the kids' version of Commute Green in the San Joaquin, showing how they can reduce vehicle emissions during a school week by walking, riding their bikes, scooters and skateboards to school.

The schools below are being rewarded for their efforts to clean the Valley's air:

San Joaquin County - Sequoia Elementary, Manteca

Fresno County - Malloch Elementary, Fresno

Kings County - Tamarack Elementary, Avenal

In addition to receiving trophies, the schools will receive a bike and helmet for one student and 25 Healthy Air Living T-shirts.



Capricia Clark,  
4th grader from Malloch  
Elementary School, Fresno  
wins a bike in the Commute  
Green Kids' Challenge.



## Wood burning season underway

Check Before You Burn, which runs from November through February each year, determines when residential wood burning will add dangerous levels of particulate matter – tiny pieces of soot, ash, dust and other materials – to the Valley's air, and prohibits the use of residential wood-burning devices. Wood-burning forecasts are issued by county each day.

"This rule is an important measure to protect public health, and was integral in the Valley experiencing the cleanest winter on record last year," said Seyed Sadredin, the Air District's air pollution control officer and executive director.

High levels of particulate pollution can have serious health effects, including bronchitis, lung disease and increased risk for heart attacks and stroke. Young children, elderly people and people with existing respiratory and coronary disease are especially vulnerable.

There are two forecast levels -- "Wood burning Prohibited" and "Please Burn Cleanly" – depending on expected air quality. When a prohibition is declared, burning any solid fuel in a residential fireplace or wood-burning device is not permitted and violations may result in fines. Backyard chimineas and fire pits are also subject to the prohibitions. There are two exceptions, however:

- If the residence does not have access to natural-gas service, even if propane is available; or
- If burning solid fuel is the sole source of heat for the residence.

When burning is allowed, the Air District recommends using manufactured fire logs, such as Durafume, or dry, seasoned wood to minimize emissions.

Daily wood-burning forecasts will be available by county each day at 4:30 p.m. beginning Saturday at <http://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/WoodBurnPage.htm>, and by calling 1-800 SMOG INFO.