Air District puts rubber to the road during National Bike Month

Throughout the United States, bicycle clubs and community organizers are rallying together to celebrate and promote cycling as a better transportation alternative to single-occupancy vehicles.

Bicycling events during May encourage drivers and other Valley residents to adopt this activity regularly or semi-regularly.

Cycling is great exercise, an effective way to reduce traffic congestion, and riding your bike, instead of driving, greatly reduces smog-forming emissions.

During National Bike Month, the Valley Air District participated in, helped coordinate and sponsored Bike-to-Work and Bike-to-School events from Stockton to Bakersfield, including:

- Bike-to-School Days in Visalia and Bakersfield
- Bike-to-Work Days in Modesto, Stockton, Bakersfield and Merced
- The Mall-to-Mall Ride in Fresno

The purpose of these events is to encourage those who don’t normally ride their bike to try it, and to get those who ride occasionally to ride more often. This in turn, reduces the number of vehicle miles traveled in the San Joaquin Valley and improves air quality.

To further assist in this effort, the Air District also provides municipalities with grant funding to construct bicycle paths in Valley cities.

Cities and counties are encouraged to apply for REMOVE II Program grants to construct bike paths.

Information is available on District grants by calling 559-230-580 or visiting the District website at: valleyair.org.