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May is Clean Air Month

Although the Valley Air District's priority is protecting public health and reducing emissions all year long, the subject gets a nationwide focus during May each year.

May is Clean Air Month. Not only that but, other national, and in some cases, world-wide observances also take place in May that support the mission of helping to clean the Valley's air.

May is also Asthma Awareness Month, Stroke





Awareness Month and National Bike Month.

The connection is clear. Air pollution is a trigger for asthma episodes, and particulate matter pollution, specifically, increases the risk of strokes and heart attacks.

In addition, Bike Month encourages cycling over the use of motor vehicles, especially during Bike to Work Week, May 11-15.

The Valley Air District supports such observances through sponsorship, participation and promotion of Valley-wide events including asthma and stroke awareness health fairs, and Bike-to-Work and Bike-to-School events.

CAPCOA releases Progress Report

Just in time for Clean Air Month, the California Air Pollution Control Officers' Association released its annual Progress Toward Clean Air Report in the second half of April.

Although There is a long way to go before reaching our air quality goals, the report demonstrates that Valley air quality has made great strides since the District's formation in 1992.

The full report is available at: <u>http://www.capcoa.org/</u>.

Clean Green Yard Machines

The Valley Air District is still offering up to \$250 when Valley residents turn in their gas-powered lawn mowers in favor of the electric alternatative. An application and program guidelines are available on the District's website at: www.valleyair.org/lawnmowers.

