

# VALLEY AIR NEWS

A monthly publication of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - July 2016

## District petitions EPA for tools to meet federal standard

June 22, 2016 – The Valley Air District submitted a petition requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) take regulatory action to reduce air pollution from heavy duty trucks and locomotives. The petition was approved during the District's Governing Board meeting on June 16.

The Board took this action as part of the District's process for developing an air quality attainment plan to meet the latest health standards for particulates and ozone as mandated under federal law. According to the Valley Air District, meeting these federal standards requires another 90% reduction in fossil fuel combustion emissions. With Valley businesses already subject to the toughest air regulations in the nation, the needed reductions can only come from mobile sources that fall under the EPA's legal jurisdiction.

In approving the petition to the EPA, Councilmember Oliver Baines, Chairman of the District's Governing Board, stated "We are air quality advocates, and it is incumbent upon us to push the envelope and do everything we can to protect public health."

"Although the Valley has seen tremendous improvement in air quality over the last twenty years, meeting these new standards is impossible without the EPA taking responsibility for reducing pollution from sources that fall under their legal jurisdiction," stated Seyed Sadredin, Executive Director / Air Pollution Control Officer of the Valley Air District. "A national standard to reduce emissions from trucks and locomotives is not only necessary to satisfy the

federal mandates, but it will also help ensure that California businesses, and Valley businesses in particular, are not unfairly disadvantaged," added Sadredin.

The Valley's petition specifically asks that the EPA establish national point-of-sale standards for new trucks and locomotives. The petition further asks the EPA to establish national standards for in-use and remanufactured locomotives.

At this point it is unclear whether the EPA will respond affirmatively to the petition filed by the District. Although the District is hopeful, discussions with EPA cast doubt on the federal agency's willingness to pursue a national standard.

Supervisor Steven Worthley, Valley Air District Governing Board member, questioned the equity or legality of

a federal mandate compelling local government to do something that is impossible to achieve without the federal government taking responsibility for actions within its sole jurisdiction.

"This is the right fight, and we are doing everything we can in the interest of public health and air quality. If it means fighting the federal government to have them participate in this process, then we should do it," stated Councilmember Baines, "We need partners and sometimes the way you get partners is to force them to the table. There have been many fights in this country over the years where the federal government has had to be forced to the table to do the right thing. Luckily we live in a country where we have a mechanism that allows us to compel entities to do the right thing."

The graph below shows the Valley's NOx emissions in relation to federal air quality standards.

