

News Release

For immediate release

June 25, 2008

>>City, business and assignment
editors<<



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

Central region
Jaime Holt
(559) 230-5850
Northern Region
Anthony Presto
(209) 557-6472
Southern region
Brenda Turner
(661) 326-6981
Spanish-language contact
Claudia Encinas
(559) 230-5851

Cities, counties commit to Healthy Air Living *Numerous governments adopt proclamations*

City and county governments throughout the San Joaquin Valley are making public commitments to put strategies in place to reduce their contributions to air pollution and support Healthy Air Living Week.

In the San Joaquin Valley air basin, most counties and several cities have already issued formal proclamations of support for Healthy Air Living, a comprehensive, cooperative initiative between private citizens, business and industry, faith-based communities, nonprofit and social-service sectors, and health organizations to make sustainable, lasting changes in the way we live and work.

Healthy Air Living Week, which will emphasize alternatives to emission-producing activities, is July 7-13.

“We greatly appreciate the enthusiastic support we are receiving from local governments, including adopting proclamations, for Healthy Air Living Week,” said Seyed Sadredin, the Valley Air District’s executive director and air pollution control officer. “Some of the action items these governing bodies are committing to are quite substantial, such as adopting clean-fleet procurement policies and offering their employees direct deposit of their paychecks.”

So far, the counties that have issued or pledged to issue proclamations for Healthy Air Living include Kern, Kings, Fresno, Madera, San Joaquin and Stanislaus. Cities that have pledged to adopt proclamations are Bakersfield, Exeter, Fresno, Lindsay, Merced, Modesto, Oakdale, Riverbank, Stockton, Tracy, Tulare and Waterford. In adopting a proclamation, these entities are pledging to put into practice emission-reducing strategies during Healthy Air Living Week.

The Air District is co-sponsoring a drawing for a new Toyota Prius automobile for individuals and organizations that commit to trying several healthy-air alternatives during that week.

The District is also seeking nominations for Clean Air Champions, awards that recognize individuals and organizations that make air quality a priority in day-to-day decisions. A selection committee will determine the winners based on innovation and commitment to achieving clean air. Nominees may be individuals, businesses or organizations, and self-nominations are accepted.

For more information on Healthy Air Living Week, Clean Air Champions, the Toyota Prius drawing or any other aspect of Healthy Air Living, visit www.healthyairliving.com.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern. For assistance, contact the nearest District office in Modesto at (209) 557-6440, Fresno (559) 230-6000 or Bakersfield (661) 326-6900.